

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING GENEVIEVE ROSKEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Genevieve Roskey of Saint Joseph, MO. Genevieve celebrated her 90th birthday on August 4 of this month, and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone. Genevieve is a fine citizen of Missouri and the St. Joseph community. It is an honor to represent Genevieve in the United States Congress, and I wish her all the best on this birthday and many more in the future.

RECOGNIZING DR. ROBERT J. DILLMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS BEING NAMED "BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR" BY THE POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. Robert J. Dillman, president of East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, on the occasion of his being named "Businessperson of the Year" by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Dillman is the 12th president of East Stroudsburg University and has served in that capacity since July, 1996.

Since then, he has initiated ambitious and innovative academic and economic development projects that have made a profound impact on the university and on the quality of life and economic revitalization of the region.

During Dr. Dillman's tenure, ESU has become the first university in the United States to offer an undergraduate degree in computer security.

At his direction, the university established an award-winning "Business Accelerator" that focuses on encouraging economic development and entrepreneurial endeavors in the region and has been successful in generating nearly 100 highly skilled jobs in Monroe County.

Dr. Dillman initiated and is leading the planning for the creation of a world class Science and Technology Center on campus.

Dr. Dillman has also partnered with the Pocono Record newspaper to develop a Jazzmasters and Broadway Series which was held for 4 consecutive years.

Under Dr. Dillman's direction, ESU has added a new graduate degree program, "Masters in Management and Leadership." He also oversaw the creation of the Center for Research and Economic Development in 1999.

In recognition of his efforts in community development, workforce training, entrepreneurship and innovation, Dr. Dillman received the Ben Franklin Technology Partners Special Recognition Award in 2004.

Under his leadership, university enrollment has steadily increased. Undergraduate enrollment has risen 20 percent while graduate enrollment climbed 33 percent since 1996. And, just this year, Dr. Dillman oversaw the opening of University Ridge Apartments, a new complex that houses 541 students. Dr. Dillman also guided work that produced a new Admissions Welcome Center, Student Recreation Center, Alumni Center and an Enrollment Services Center.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Dillman on this occasion. His work at East Stroudsburg University demonstrates that he is more than deserving of the "Businessperson of the Year Award." The entire Pocono Mountain community has been enriched by his efforts and it is fitting that he is honored in this way.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF JAMES D. QUISENBERRY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of James D. Quisenberry of Lakewood, OH, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Quisenberry was one of twenty inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. He is a highly decorated veteran, and has infused an unwavering sense of integrity, spirit, courage and energy into all personal and professional endeavors.

For the past 18 years, Mr. Quisenberry has been an active volunteer with the March of Dimes, and his vital outreach as a sponsor and counselor with Alcoholics Anonymous has uplifted the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our community. He also served for many years as a Boy Scout Leader. Mr. Quisenberry was instrumental in establishing the "Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial," and has reflected an ongoing spirit of volunteerism and leadership roles with numerous veterans and civic organizations. He is the current president of the Memorial Day Association of Greater Cleveland, which organizes the placement of flags on graves of veterans at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of James D. Quisenberry, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Quisenberry's unwavering commitment to his family, community and country, continues to enrich our community and our entire Nation.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF SPECIALIST KENDELL K. FREDERICK

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Specialist Kendell K. Frederick who died the 19th of October 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Frederick, a mechanic working on power generators, was killed outside of Tikrit, Iraq. He died of serious injuries when a roadside-improvised explosive device detonated near the military vehicle which he was driving.

Frederick, a native of Randallstown, Maryland was an Army Reservist assigned to Headquarters Company, 983rd Engineer Battalion in Monclova, OH.

The Randallstown High School Alumni is succeeded by his father, Peter Ramsahai, his mother, Michelle Murphy, his stepfather, Kenmore Murphy, his two sisters, and his brother.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of a man truly dedicated to serving his country.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS AND DORIS BOYCE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding citizens of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District: Rev. and Mrs. Thomas W. Boyce of Blue Springs, MO. Thomas and Doris will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on August 21, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Reverend and Mrs. Boyce. Thomas and Doris Boyce have set an outstanding example for all of us to follow. Their marriage of 50 years truly exemplifies the qualities of commitment and dedication, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

HONORING CHUCK NICLAUS AS HE IS NAMED "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" BY THE POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Chuck Niclaus, president of Niclaus Engineering Corporation in Stroudsburg, PA, on the occasion of being named "Citizen of the Year"

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Niclaus has been engaged in the engineering field for more than 28 years. His expertise includes civil engineering, land development, environmental sciences and surveying.

Extremely active in his community, Mr. Niclaus served as United Way Campaign Chairman in 2004 and has served as a member of the United Way's board of directors. He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Stroudsburg and he served on the board of directors of the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce.

He is a past president and member of the board of directors of the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce and is a past vice president of the Bangor Lions Club.

Mr. Niclaus received the United Way President's and Clifford E. Gilliam Awards in 2004 and the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary International in 2003. He was named Rotarian of the Year in 1999.

Mr. Niclaus is a member of many professional associations including the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Environmental Assessment Association and the National Association of Environmental Professionals.

He has also been an active youth baseball and soccer coach.

Having graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Mr. Niclaus received his professional engineering licenses in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and possesses operator certificates for wastewater and water systems from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Niclaus resides with his wife, Maureen, their three daughters, Erin, Mary and Elizabeth and their son, Tim.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Niclaus at this time. His professional and community commitment speaks well of his desire to make the Stroudsburg area and the region surrounding it a better place to live and raise families. The recognition associated with being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce is well deserved.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MARSHALL W. BUSEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Marshall W. Busey of Cleveland, OH, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Busey was one of 20 inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. He served our country as a member of the United States Army with honor, bravery and integrity, qualities he continues to bring to all personal, civic and professional endeavors within his life.

Mr. Busey's unwavering service to the veterans of our community has served to uplift the lives of countless veterans and their families. He led the effort to raise funds to purchase a 32-foot motor home converted for use by VA patients. He is President of the Memo-

rial Day Association of Cuyahoga County and was Past President of the Greater Cleveland Veterans' Council. For 39 years, he served as the Sergeant of the Memorial Day "Rough Riders Firing Squad" and as the City of Cleveland Memorial Day Color Guard Sergeant for 14 years. Mr. Busey is an active member of the American Legion and was honored as the Legionnaire of the Year in 1975 and 1976. His service to others extends throughout the community, where he is active in raising funds for many charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Marshall W. Busey, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Busey's honorable and dedicated service to his family, community and to our Nation serves to strengthen and give hope to the members of our community, thereby strengthening our entire Nation.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
SERGEANT BRIAN R. CONNER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor and remember a man who devoted his life to keeping the citizens of the United States safe.

Sergeant Brian R. Conner of Baltimore, MD died on the 14th of October in the year 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Conner's death in Al Taji, Iraq occurred when a tractor trailer rear-ended the vehicle in which he and two other Maryland Guardsmen were riding. The weapons they carried as part of convoy operations were detonated upon impact.

Conner's unit in the Maryland National Guard's 243d Engineer Company was activated for duty in June and they left for Kuwait in August.

Not only did Conner serve his country through the Armed Forces, but he also served as a Lieutenant with the Baltimore City Fire Department.

His colleagues there remember him as a well-respected firefighter and a good friend. Conner was the proud father of three daughters and a devoted and loving brother and son.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me today to honor Sergeant Brian R. Conner for the dedication he has shown to his family, friends and the American people.

RECOGNIZES WORLD WAR II
VETERANS OF PASCO COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave soldiers of Pasco County, FL who served during World War II.

At a ceremony to be held Saturday, November 12, 2005, I will present representatives from each of the five United States Armed Forces with commemorative coins honoring their service during World War II.

As General George Patton once said, "Wars maybe fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory."

The Pasco County veterans we are honoring this weekend clearly met General Patton's description above. They proved themselves in battle in Europe, Africa and the Far East. Their sacrifices on the battlefield preserved liberty and freedom for millions throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, true American heroes like these Pasco County World War II veterans should be honored for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. They are truly part of America's greatest generation.

RECOGNIZING REID M. MASON FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Reid M. Mason of Kansas City, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 301, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Reid has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities and earning numerous merit badges. Reid began scouting as a Tiger Cub, advanced to Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelo before joining the Boy Scouts in 2002, where he advanced to Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd class, 1st class, Star, Life, and finally, Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Reid turned a series of small rooms and closets at First Baptist Church in North Kansas City, MO into a large, functional youth area.

Outside of scouting, Reid is a sophomore at North Kansas City High School, where he is active in the marching band, symphonic band, theater, swing choir, basketball, baseball, and the International Baccalaureate program. Reid is also active in his youth group at First Baptist Church and plays guitar in the youth worship band. Somehow he also finds time to play summer baseball, work toward his black belt in Hapkido, and take piano lessons.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Reid M. Mason for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DAMIAN BRAGA
AS HE RECEIVES THE CHAIR-
MAN'S BUSINESS AWARD FROM
THE POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAM-
BER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the

House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Damian A. Braga, president of Sanofi Pasteur US, located in Swiftwater, Monroe County, PA.

Mr. Braga has been named the recipient of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce "Chairman's Business Award."

Mr. Braga is head of the sole U.S.-based manufacturer of injectable influenza vaccines and other critical immunization products which, last year alone, protected more than 500 million people worldwide.

Responsible for operations nationwide, Mr. Braga oversees more than \$1.5 billion in revenue at Sanofi Pasteur in Swiftwater and has played a vital role in global strategic planning and implementation.

Mr. Braga joined the company in 1988 and moved seamlessly through senior level positions, ultimately reaching the top of the U.S. organization.

Well known for his ability to assess challenging issues and identify achievable solutions, Mr. Braga puts strong emphasis on working with organizations that promote the importance of vaccines, encourage economic growth and assist those in need on both a national and state level. Toward that end, Mr. Braga serves as representative of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America for the Center for Disease Control's advisory committee on immunization practices. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Business Roundtable and the state Advisory Council for the Pennsylvania Academy of Science.

Mr. Braga also remains active in the Pocono community. He and Sanofi Pasteur actively support the Pocono Services for Families and Children. A proponent of educational initiatives, Mr. Braga also serves as a member of Northampton Community College's Foundation Board and East Stroudsburg University's board of directors for the Center for Research and Economic Development.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Braga on the receipt of this honor. Mr. Braga and Sanofi Pasteur continually demonstrate how business should contribute to the greater community through a spirit of commitment and service.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
JOHN J. NICASTRO, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of John J. Nicastro, Sr., upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Nicastro was one of twenty inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. Mr. Nicastro holds the distinction as being one of the youngest Commission Combat Officers in the United States Air Force. By age 19, he had risen up the military ranks to Second Lieutenant. His assignment with the 8th Army Air Force, 303rd Heavy Bomb Group, known as the Hell's Angels, took him to the European Theater of Operations, where his exemplary service included the successful completion of 35 combat missions.

Following his service in WWII, Mr. Nicastro became an installer with the Ohio Bell Tele-

phone Company. Like his service in the military, he ascended the corporate ladder, attaining the position of Account Executive. During his tenure at Ohio Bell, Mr. Nicastro led the effort to upgrade communication systems throughout the county, including the implementation of the 911 emergency calling system. Aside from his professional career, Mr. Nicastro continues to reflect a life-long focus on service to his community. He served as a member of the Independence City Council for sixteen years, served as President of the Independence Board of Education, and has held numerous leadership positions in veterans and civic organizations. Mr. Nicastro was awarded the Legion of Honor Award for his forty-five years of exemplary service with Kiwanis International of Independence, OH.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of John J. Nicastro, Sr., as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Nicastro's significant contribution to his country, and his focused dedication on family and community, continue to strengthen and uplift our community and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
EFFORTS OF ABERDEEN TEST
CENTER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend the significant contributions of Aberdeen Test Center (ATC) located in Aberdeen, MD, for their outstanding efforts to protect American troops.

In August of 2003, the M1 tanks moving toward Baghdad were assailed by Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG). This situation highlighted a potential vulnerability to the Abram M1 fleet of tanks.

Based on this concern, ATC was requested to provide modifications to the tanks to remedy the potential vulnerability. ATC employees developed the Slat Armor System designed to address the issue. Because of their diligence and motivation, the modifications were completed in only three days. The efficiency demonstrated by ATC enabled the vulnerability to be rectified in less than ten days.

As the initial Stryker brigade prepared to enter combat in Iraq, ATC was again contacted requesting similar modifications to the Strykers, addressing a potential vulnerability to RPGs. These modifications were designed, prototyped and tested in under 10 days for mass production and fielding. Each Stryker was outfitted with this slat armor solution prior to entering combat in Iraq.

In the course of one year the Stryker Brigade Commander reported one hundred fifteen incidents of RPG attacks on Stryker vehicles. Because of the modification to the Slat Armor System, there have been no fatalities as a result of these RPG attacks.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me to acknowledge the exceptional work Aberdeen Test Center has done on the Abram M1s and Strykers. The elite attention and enthusiasm shown in this matter has saved the lives of many soldiers fighting the War on Terror.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN KIDWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brian Kidwell, son of Douglas and Teresa Kidwell. Brian will receive his Eagle Award on August 7, 2005 at a Court of Honor in Saint Joseph, MO.

Brian began his scouting career in 1995 as a Tiger Cub. In 1996, he joined Pack 218 and proceeded through the ranks of Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelo. While a Webelo, Brian earned all the activity badges and the Arrow of Light. He also received a Service Star for five years of active scouting and the God and me award.

Brian became a member of Troop 218 in 2000, where he earned the ranks of Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life, and now Eagle. Brian received 27 merit badges, and served in numerous leadership positions including Librarian, Patrol Leader, Chaplain Aide, Troop Guide, and Junior Assistant Scout Master. He is also a Fire Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

In June of 2003, Brian and his father Douglas went to Philmont Scout Ranch, where they earned the 50 Miler Award.

Aside from scouting, Brian is a lifetime resident of Country Club Village. He attended John Glenn Elementary School then Savannah Middle School. He is currently a junior at Savannah High School and has been involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and FFA. He has been on High Honor Roll since 4th grade.

Brian is a member of Faith United Church, Hope Youth Group, and the Sons of the American Legion, which he joined through his late grandfather, Darryle Bartlett.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brian Kidwell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ELIZABETH KOSTER AS
SHE RECEIVES THE 2005 ATHENA
AWARD FROM THE POCONO
MOUNTAIN CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Elizabeth Koster, of Smithfield Township, Monroe County, PA, who was chosen by the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce to receive its 2005 Athena Award.

Mrs. Koster is president and chief executive officer of Fitzmaurice Community Services, Inc., which has been serving the needs of special populations in the Pocono area for 30 years.

Founded by Mrs. Koster's mother, Johanna Fitzmaurice, in 1966, the business strives to create environments for persons with disabilities that support independence, productivity and

inclusion through customized services provided by highly qualified staff personnel.

Mrs. Fitzmaurice died in 1978 but the organization she founded has grown over the years under the leadership and vision of her daughter, Mrs. Koster.

Mrs. Koster graduated from East Stroudsburg University after which she began her career as a teacher and then as an associate at her mother's company, rising to president and CEO following her mother's death.

Today, her company assists hundreds of persons with special needs so they can lead meaningful and productive lives by providing housing, education, recreation and medical services.

Mrs. Koster serves on the boards of directors of the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Eastern Monroe Public Library, Leadership Pocono and the ESU Rehabilitation Services Advisory Council. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs, advisor for the Kiwanis AKTION Club of Stroudsburg and is past president of the Northeast Providers Association, the Pocono Providers Association and past vice chair of the Mental Retardation Committee for Pennsylvania Community providers Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Koster on this occasion. Athena award winners are chosen on the basis of their professional excellence and service to community. Clearly, Mrs. Koster demonstrates those qualities.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
MAYNARD W. "DOC" UNGER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Maynard W. "Doc" Unger of Lakewood, OH, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2005.

Mr. Unger is 1 of 20 inductees selected by a 13-member executive committee comprised of veteran leaders from throughout Ohio. Mr. Unger's distinguished service during World War II reflected courage and spirit, and his inner strength and faith guided him through the darkest of times when he was held as a prisoner of war.

Mr. Unger's service to others has continued throughout his life. For 45 years, he volunteered his time to assist and support the youth of our community with the Boy Scouts of America organization. To show their gratitude for his outstanding service, the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America honored him with the International Scouter's Award. Mr. Unger also committed his time as a teacher with the public school program "Growing Healthy Together." For 13 years, he taught students basic health and safety facts, including the significance and long-term impact of healthy eating habits. His lifelong involvement in many civic and veteran organizations includes his tenure as the former State commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was re-elected to the position of State commander in 2005.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Maynard W. "Doc"

Unger, upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Unger's lifelong service to his country, community and family enhances the lives of all of us and underscores the true meaning of the words United States citizen.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART SUPPORTS COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO TRAUMATIC STRESSORS ACT OF 2005, H.R. 1588

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, fully supports H.R. 1588, which is a comprehensive approach to addressing the mental health needs of service members exposed to combat, including those members of our Armed Forces now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A recent Army survey found that about 28 percent of Iraq veterans—about 50,000 servicemembers in this year alone—returned home with problems from lingering battle wounds to toothaches, from suicidal thoughts to strained marriages. Almost 1,700 servicemembers returning from the battlefield this year had thoughts of hurting themselves or that they would be better off dead. If left undiagnosed and untreated, post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, can lead to suicide.

Last year, the New England Journal of Medicine published research that found 15 to 17 percent of front-line troops suffered depression, anxiety or PTSD.

As the MOPH letter states, "We have learned from past wars that the injuries to military members do not stop on the battlefield but may manifest themselves months or years afterward. America must be there to help the healing process. H.R. 1588 would accomplish this goal."

I ask that the letter from the Military Order of the Purple Heart be included in the RECORD.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE
PURPLE HEART,

Springfield, VA, November 1, 2005.

HON. LANE EVANS,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN EVANS: On behalf of the membership of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), whose membership is comprised entirely of combat wounded veterans, I write to pledge our unequivocal support of H.R. 1588 the "Comprehensive Assistance for Veterans Exposed to Traumatic Stressors Act of 2005".

At a time when our military men and women are engaged in the war on terrorism this act is most appropriate. We have learned from past wars that the injuries to military members do not stop on the battlefield but may manifest themselves months or years afterward. America must be there to help the healing process. H.R. 1588 would help accomplish this goal.

You may count on the MOPH in anyway possible to ensure that this legislation becomes law.

Respectfully,

JAMES D. RANDES,
National Commander.

RECOGNIZING BURL AND JURLINE
BARKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding citizens of Missouri. Burl and Jurline Barker of Mount Vernon, MO celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Barker. Burl and Jurline have set an outstanding example for all of us to follow. Their marriage of 60 years truly exemplifies the qualities of commitment and dedication.

CONGRATULATING JOHANNA WEAVER AS SHE IS NAMED "HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Johanna Weaver, of Monroe County, PA, on the occasion of her being named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Weaver served as executive director of Pocono Services for Families and Children for more than 33 years before her retirement last August.

Over the years, she has distinguished herself as a community leader, volunteer and mentor to children.

She has served the Monroe County Children and Youth Advisory Board, Habitat for Humanity Advisory Board, Drug and Alcohol Prevention Juvenile Task Force, Monroe County Job Center Task Force, League of Women Voters, United Way, Monroe County Association for the Education of Young Children, Welfare Reform Task Force, WNEP-TV Advisory Board, Kiwanis Clubs of the Stroudsburgs, Chamber of Commerce Executive Women's Council and the East Stroudsburg University Women's Center Advisory Board.

On a State and national level, she has served the Head Start program, the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Pennsylvania Association of Child Care Administrators.

She has also served the East Stroudsburg School District's reading program and was a member of the district's Band, Football and Wrestling Parents Associations.

Mrs. Weaver is married to Michael Weaver, a retired professor from East Stroudsburg University. The couple has two children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Weaver on the occasion of this honor. Her selfless commitment to family and community and, especially, to the welfare of children has enriched the greater Pocono Mountain region. Mrs. Weaver deserves our gratitude and appreciation.

REBUILD LIVES AND FAMILIES
RE-ENTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Rebuild Lives and Families Re-Entry Enhancement Act of 2005. This legislation will be the next important step in establishing policy to help the men and women emerging from our Nation's prisons and jails re-integrate into society and rebuild their lives.

While our national crime rates have fallen over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented explosion in our prison and jail populations. Over 2 million prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 650,000 people return to their communities following a prison or jail sentence, resulting in more than 6.7 million under some form of criminal justice supervision.

Re-entry refers to the return of incarcerated individuals from America's jails and prisons to the community and their re-integration into society. There is a pressing need to provide these individuals with the education and training necessary to obtain and hold onto steady jobs, undergo drug treatment, and get medical and mental health services. However, they are confronted with the "prison after imprisonment"—a plethora of seemingly endless obstacles and impediments which stymie successful re-integration into society. These obstacles have substantially contributed to the historically high rate of recidivism, with two-thirds of returning prisoners having been re-arrested for new crimes within 3 years.

This legislation is designed to assist high-risk, high-need offenders who have served their prison sentences, but who pose the greatest risk of re-offending upon release because they lack the education, job skills, stable family or living arrangements, and the substance abuse treatment and other mental and medical health services they need to successfully re-integrate into society. Title I of the bill reauthorizes and enhances our early adult and juvenile re-entry programs to broaden the availability of critical ex-offender services, while Title II addresses the substantive Federal barriers to successful re-entry. Both titles include provisions requiring that the funded programs be rigorously evaluated and the results widely disseminated, so that re-entry programs can be modified as needed, to ensure that recidivism is reduced and public safety enhanced.

A recent study by Peter D. Hart Research Associates reveals that Americans strongly favor rehabilitation and re-entry programs as the best method of insuring public safety. With this changing paradigm in public opinion, the opportunity is ripe to sensibly reassess the role and impact of criminal justice policies. This legislation translates this emerging public perception into balanced policies and procedures which dismantle the structural impediments to successful re-integration into society.

THE GREATEST GENERATION AU-
THOR TOM BROKAW ADDRESSES
THE ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I just had the chance to read the speech given in October by Tom Brokaw, television journalist and former NBC news anchorman and managing editor of "NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw," at the Association of the United States Army, AUSA. He was presented with the association's highest award—the Marshall Medal, awarded annually to an individual who has exhibited "selfless service to the United States of America," according to the association.

The AUSA Council of Trustees chose Brokaw to receive the 2005 George Catlett Marshall Medal and recognize him for his lifetime contributions as a journalist, reporter, editor, broadcaster and author. I share his address here and commend to our colleagues the speech by Mr. Brokaw, the author of *The Greatest Generation*, the story of Americans who came of age during the Great Depression and fought World War II, and went on to build America. I call attention to Mr. Brokaw's observations of the common sacrifices of the Greatest Generation during World War II and the comparison with today, as our men and women in uniform are fighting to defend our freedoms, "we ask too few sacrifices at the civilian level."

You know in my business, I'm often in settings where they talk about stars. I'm seldom in a setting with so many stars, that have been earned, not just assigned to them by some gossip columnist, and it's a rare honor and a great privilege for me to be with all of you tonight here on the dais and in this great auditorium.

So many people have come up to me to say, on this occasion and others, I love your book. When I set out to write it, I had no idea of the richness of the journey that I was about to embark on. It really began on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, when I went to Normandy for a week to do a documentary about that momentous military landing that really changed the course of history. I thought, we'll have a good time, we'll drink some wine, and maybe we'll drink a lot of wine, and we'll have some good meals, and we'll hear some war stories.

And on the first day of filming, I walked down to the beach, with two men from Big Red One, one of whom went on to earn the Medal of Honor later. One was without legs that he lost in later action. And as I looked at them, I realized that Harry Garton and Gino Merli were the kinds of people that I had known all my life. They were my schoolteachers and ministers, the businessmen for whom I worked. Their wives looked like the mothers of all my friends; they looked like my parents' best friends. They were there in their windbreakers, and as we walked onto Omaha Beach, they paused at their first return and began very softly to remember what it had been like that day.

And within about 20 minutes, I had undergone a transformational experience, the likes of which I had not known as a professional journalist. And their stories, and the stories that I began to collect after that, resonated not just with me, but with this coun-

try in a way that I could not have anticipated. Now there have been some who have challenged my declaration that this was the greatest generation. My answer to them is, that's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

But I believe the generation that came of age in the Great Depression, when life was about sacrifice and deprivation, about dropping out of school, not to buy a video game or a car for yourself, but to put food on the table, when sharing meant sharing a pair of shoes or a shirt or a jacket. They didn't double date, they went three and four couples to a car, to a movie that cost a dime, and went back to someone's home at the end of the night to play the piano, and have coffee and cake.

And they never gave up on their country, even though times were difficult, and just when they were beginning to emerge from those dark days economically, this country summoned them to distant battlefields, across the Atlantic and across the Pacific. And what the British military historian John Keegan has called the greatest single event in the history of mankind—World War II. They fought on six of the seven continents, all the skies, and on all the seas and beneath them as well, and won. Fifty million people had perished, and nations had been realigned, and we were forced to face harsh truths about the cruelties of mankind in the middle of the 20th century.

But they came home from all of that, and they gave us new art and new science and new industry. A number of them continued in the military. Those who did not, did not just lay down their arms and say I've done by share. They went back to their hometowns and their states, and they ran for mayor and the school board and for the church board trustees. They ran for Senator and for Congress, and they ran for President of the United States, and they took their place in the front ranks of public service.

And no one represented their leadership more profoundly, I believe, than the man that you honor here tonight—George Marshall—who I believe is the most single, underappreciated 20th century American, and one of the most underappreciated Americans of all time.

A warrior, a diplomat, and a visionary. And so I am deeply humbled by this award. And for those of you who only know it from one side of the television screen, not the other, let me just confirm what you're thinking—it's not easy for an anchorman to express humility. Let me also say that I'm very pleasantly surprised to know that I'm the first journalist to receive this award.

I have some good news and some bad news for you. Journalists and warriors come from the same DNA. I said this first at the War College, and I thought that the colonels in the audience were going to storm the stage. We like unconventional lives. We can deal with authority, but we know when to bristle about authority. We like living off the land. We like catching the bad guys and holding them up for appropriate punishment. And most of all, we're patriots, who love our country. And the definition of patriotism for me is love your country and always know that it can be better, and that it is the obligation of every citizen to try to make it better, every day.

On these occasions, I like to remind people that I've had the privilege in the last two years, three years especially, of working side by side, night after night, day after day, both in this country and abroad, with three of your best—General Wayne Downing, who is here tonight, General Monty Meigs and General Barry McCaffrey. And I must say as a full blown civilian, it gave me a certain amount of pleasure to say to these four stars, okay men, listen up. We're coming out

in 30 seconds, we've got a minute 30 to go—McCaffrey, don't do all the talking, let Meigs in on this for awhile.

And they were thoroughly professional, and it was not only a joy for me to work with them side by side, but it was a great service to this country to have their expertise and their candor and their truth-telling, as the war went on in the early stages, and then after that.

Now it is sometimes an adjustment. During Operation Desert Storm, I was joined at the desk at NBC, night after night, hour after hour, by one of your great, great figures, the late Colonel Harry Summers, who was a real expert on infantry tactics, a plainspoken man, who kept his military bearing even in a television studio. But about the fifth night of the war, at about three o'clock in the morning, we were kind of operating on fumes at this point, and I refuse on those occasions to have a conventional meal; I said just keep sending out plates of fresh food of some kind, that will keep me going; I don't want to get bogged down with dinner; I've got too many other things to worry about.

And finally about the 18th little dish of chopped fruit arrived on my desk, and I couldn't even bear to look at it, and I finally slid it across to Harry Summers. He looked down at it for a long moment and he said, "I don't know what's happened to me. First I let them put hairspray and makeup on me—now I'm eating fresh fruit." But we found a way to get along.

Let me just take a little bit of your time, if I can, to offer some adjurations on the profession that brings you here tonight and our collective place in this society. A few months ago, at a conference of billionaires, moguls, titans, movers and shakers, Monty Meigs arranged for a panel of U.S. Army battalion commanders from Iraq and Afghanistan to present their view of what is happening in their sectors.

It was a dazzling performance by these best and brightest lieutenant colonels. They were energetic, they were articulate, funny, and fully at ease in a roomful of folks who represented a slightly higher pay grade than they did.

They complained, mildly, that their good works and accomplishments had not received enough press attention, and then they engaged in a friendly but pointed exchange with three of us who represented the media at that conference.

Their performance and their bearing represented what I have been encountering for some time in my dealings with the American military in distant battlefields and military bases in this country, away from the constraints of the Pentagon.

The other guests, who represented enormous financial, industrial, social and political strength and power in America, were bedazzled to the point of full immersion infatuation. They rushed to the stage to express their enthusiasm for what they had just heard. They turned to me, and to Tom Friedman of *The New York Times* and Donald Graham, the publisher of *The Washington Post*, demanding to know why they had not heard these stories before, why they had not read of the brilliance and the character of line officers in the field.

That night at dinner these four lieutenant colonels were rock stars among groupies, as everyone from Bill Gates at Microsoft and Warren Buffet and Phil Knight of Nike gathered around to continue their adulation, to suggest lecture tours across America, to participate in corporate motivation sessions and to commiserate with them as well about the absence of press coverage.

I was at once amused and determined to use this as an opening to address what I be-

lieve is a growing problem in American life. The next day it turns out that I was the guest, the sole interview before the same collection of powerful elites. And I took that opportunity to remind the audience that what they heard the day before, had been, in fact, widely reported, often at great risk—day in and day out—for three years on all the print and electronic news outlets. Perhaps not exactly as the young officers would have liked, but reported nonetheless. And even the officers gave me a sly smile and said you're right on that.

Moreover, for those in the audience who believed that these young battalion commanders were some kind of an elite all-star team handpicked by the Pentagon, I was happy to correct that impression. I told that gathering of moguls and titans, I've met hundreds more like them. They are exceptional officers, but they're not the exception.

Furthermore what they're doing in their commands in Iraq and Afghanistan may be news to you, but it's not news to communities and neighbors of mine in Big Timber, Montana, or in hamlets in South Carolina, or barrios in East Los Angeles or the working class neighborhoods of Detroit, or the small towns of the Great Plains. In those communities, they pay attention, because it is their sons and daughters, and fathers and mothers, who are in harm's way in those distant places.

General Meigs performed an important public service that week in Sun Valley by reminding that audience of the place of the military, not just in our national security considerations, but also in our social and political construct as a nation. Indisputably, this country has the finest military in the history of mankind.

It is a superior force at every measurable level, made up entirely by volunteers, fully integrated ethnically and in terms of gender.

Unfortunately, it's also a military that in too many families, in too many communities and especially in too many corporate suites and boardrooms, country clubs and other gathering places for the elite, it is a military that is out of sight and out of mind. It is separate and distinct from the day-to-day concerns of too many Americans, especially to the elites with their hands on the power. That's not just inappropriate; it is unacceptable and even dangerous to a democratic society.

One of the enduring lessons I have learned from my interest in and association with what I call the greatest generation, is the long-term beneficial effect of an organic relationship between a civilian society and its military.

World War II was obviously a unique undertaking, requiring millions of people in uniform, a re-ordering its civilian priorities and common sacrifices for a common commitment.

I have come to believe that one of the unheralded dividends at the end of the war for America was the maturation, the discipline, the ethos of teamwork young men and women in their 20s brought back to their civilian lives.

Now young Americans who are not in uniform like to say, they're "finding themselves" in their 20s, or they're "exploring other options" in life. The greatest generation found themselves in distant battlefields or in great sea battles, or in dogfights in the air—they found themselves on factory floors or in shipyards, in the daily rationing of meat and gasoline and luxury items.

What they learned in those life-altering experiences, they applied to the building of this country, to the expansion of freedom, and most of all, to the ordering of priority for the common good. And because their experience had been so shared at every level,

there was a common appreciation of the place of the military. Now we ask too few sacrifices at the civilian level.

There are the yellow ribbons and the welcome home signs, but for too many Americans those are more ornamental than organic to their own daily lives.

A distinguished American historian wrote recently of our mercenary military conjuring up images of young warriors who are motivated only by paychecks, in effect, contract killers. That's a profoundly erroneous conclusion. It is more widely shared, however, than we may care to acknowledge.

So who's to blame for this schism in our national definition? Ladies and gentlemen I would suggest that we all are.

Our political leaders in both parties are not sufficiently addressing the gap with their constituents. They're not asking their constituents to make even token sacrifices, as a reminder that there is a war underway. They're not encouraging their financial patrons—the special interests that help elect them to office—to take a more active role in implementing a better understanding of the place of the military in our lives and in the world.

Now it's just as well that our military establishment needs to no longer confine itself, by-and-large, to its own culture. It no longer should be as defensive as it can be, when it finds itself under fire.

The media have been too focused on the triumphs and shortcomings on the battlefield, too unimaginative in dealing with the complexities of the military/political structure, as well as the manpower, the financial and the policy issues.

No institution in America is as representative of this great immigrant nation with all our varied parts as the military, and we need to be reminded of that on a daily basis.

Too many citizens are willing to assume that defending the country is an assignment best left to someone else, that it's not a personal or family obligation or calling. In the modern culture there are too few people around to challenge that.

No one wants to return to a World War to reclaim a continuing relationship between the civilian population and the military. But neither is it in our national interest to have two populations—one in uniform and one not—with little or no connectivity.

The greatest accomplishment of the greatest generation was not just on the battlefield. It was in the post-war continuation of a commitment to a whole nation, civilian and military, each respectful and mindful of their relationship and role assigned them in advancing the national interests.

It is time for a new generation to re-activate that greatness—in uniform and out.

Then perhaps, when my great, great granddaughter is ready to write her book about our generation, she will be able to say, "They, too, met the test."

RECOGNIZING CODY WAYNE BATES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Wayne Bates, son of Carol and Terry Bates, of Holt, Missouri. Cody is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 8 years Cody has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 35 merit badges and held several leadership positions. Cody has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, Librarian, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Cody is a brave in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say, where he has taken the name "Red Eye Owl," and is also a brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. In addition, Cody has earned the World Conservation Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Cody constructed a fence around 6 air conditioning units at First United Methodist Church to protect the units from damage.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Wayne Bates for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH AND DR. ROSE MATTIOLI AS THEY ARE AWARDED THE FRANK SCHOELCH COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AWARD FROM THE POCONO MOUNTAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my very good friends Dr. Joseph and Dr. Rose Mattioli, of Monroe County, Pennsylvania, who have been honored by the Pocono Mountains Chamber of Commerce as recipients of the Frank Schoelch Community Commitment Award.

Both Mattiolis are graduates of Temple University, which is where they met. Dr. Joseph Mattioli practiced dentistry while Dr. Rose Mattioli pursued a professional career as a podiatrist. Both practiced in Philadelphia for about 10 years before they decided to embark on a complete change of careers.

The Mattiolis were determined to pursue a dream of bringing automobile racing to the New York and Philadelphia regions.

That dream became a reality in 1968 when they opened the Pocono International Raceway at Long Pond in Monroe County. They endured numerous obstacles and hardships during the early days of NASCAR, but they persevered.

Since then, the Mattiolis have developed the track into one of the best in the Nation. Today, that track hosts two NASCAR NEXTEL Cup series events each year. In 2002 they were inducted into the Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame.

Known as the driving force behind the growth of Pocono Raceway, Joe is credited by his peers for his incomparable knowledge of racing, drivers and, above all, people.

Rose is well-known as a gracious lady with an infectious smile. Rose is the "heart" of the Pocono Raceway. She was instrumental in providing an area at Pocono Raceway for religious services for race teams and their families.

Joe is also a strong supporter of countless charitable groups throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. A veteran of World War II, Dr. Mattioli has been honored for helping the Veterans Coalition and Veterans of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Drs. Joseph and Rose Mattioli on this happy occasion. It is, indeed, fitting that this couple should be recognized for their community commitment since they have contributed so much to the greater Pocono Mountain community for so long. I am proud to consider them my friends. Pocono Raceway has hosted hundreds of thousands of guests over the years and has been responsible for generating significant amounts of revenue and jobs that have greatly improved the quality of life throughout the region.

CONGRATULATING RUSLAN WERTZ

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ruslan Wertz of Coppell, Texas on his commitment, contribution and success in this year's Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

In 1999, Discovery created the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge to increase and encourage middle school students' participation in science and math. The DCYSC identifies and honors America's top middle school student who demonstrates the best skills in leadership, teamwork and scientific problem solving. In addition, the ability to be an effective science communicator—a goal that reflects Discovery's philosophy that scientific knowledge is most valuable when it is communicated and shared—is a key component of the judging. More than 9,500 children have entered the DCYSC since its inception. Winners have received more than \$500,000 in scholarship awards, Federal Government recognition and participated in science-related trips that have taken them to the far corners of the globe. This year, nearly 75,000 students entered science fairs nationwide. Of those students, only 400 were chosen as semifinalists in the 2005 Discovery Young Scientist Challenge competition. The final 40 came from 19 States and Puerto Rico.

One of those finalists was Ruslan Wertz, a 16-year-old ninth-grader at Coppell High School. Ruslan's project was titled "The Truth and Lies of Blood Glucose Monitoring Systems." During a doctor's visit with his father, a diabetic, the doctor ran a glucometer test with a result of 130. This result concerned Ruslan because a few minutes earlier, his father's home test had read 160. The doctor said that home-use glucometers are not as accurate as the more expensive kind used by physicians. Ruslan wanted to confirm this disparity. For his efforts, Ruslan was awarded the TLC Science of Production Award.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Ruslan Wertz for his efforts and for receiving this commendable award given by the Discovery Channel Youth Scientist Challenge. His commitment to science and to helping others serves as an inspiration to all.

RECOGNIZING MR. SAM MOORE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Sam Moore of Butler, Kentucky. Mr. Moore has been actively involved in agriculture in my Congressional District serving as a member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors for the last 30 years. I have known Mr. Moore for several years and have found him to be a man of incredible integrity who is devoted to helping others. He is an active member of the community as well as a forceful leader in the agriculture field.

Mr. Moore hails from Butler County, where he farms more than 4,300 acres producing corn, soybeans, and wheat. He and his wife, Helen, have 6 children that frequently contribute to the family farm, teaching them time-honored values of hard work and respect for the farmer. While Mr. Moore has been active in production agriculture, he has also been involved with many other important agribusinesses making him an incredible asset to his community. He is the recipient of numerous awards, having been recognized as the Outstanding Young Farmer by the Kentucky Jaycees in 1973 as well as being named the 2003 Man of the Year In Kentucky Agriculture by Progressive Farmer Magazine. He has also been very active in the American Farm Bureau, the American Soybean Association, the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association, and the Kentucky Corn Grower's Association.

Because Mr. Moore will soon retire from his tenure as President of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, I would like to recognize his service at the Bureau and his dedication to improving agricultural interests in my home State. Without his personal connections with many influential agriculture leaders, not to mention his tireless efforts on behalf of farmers in the Commonwealth, Kentucky would not be excelling in this industry. I am sure the Kentucky Farm Bureau is sorry to see him leave, but I am confident that Mr. Moore will continue to stay active and be relied upon as a leader for Kentucky farming for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING DANE K. HAGEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dane K. Hagen, son of Susan and Mike Hagen, of Kearney, Missouri. Dane is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dane has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 8 years Dane has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 39 merit badges and held several leadership positions. Dane has served his troop as Patrol Leader, Quartermaster,

Troop Bugler, and Senior Patrol Leader. Dane is a brave in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say, where he has taken the name "Mighty Wolf Stalking Prey," and is also a brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. In addition, Dane has earned the God and Church Award, World Conservation Award, Eagle Bronze Palm, and H. Roe Bartle Heritage Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dane constructed a fence around the City of Kearney's water tower and variform pump house, and planted evergreens and shrubbery around the new fence.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dane K. Hagen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY PECONE AS HE RETIRES AS PENNSYLVANIA STATE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Anthony Pecone who is retiring as Pennsylvania State director of the U.S. Economic Development Administration following 39 years of service with the agency.

Mr. Pecone has had a distinguished career and has guided the investment of nearly \$2 billion in Federal funding throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which has had the effect of creating or retaining tens of thousands of jobs.

Mr. Pecone came to the EDA after 11 years of working in the private sector, 2 years of service with the U.S. Army in Germany, 9 months with the Central Intelligence Agency and 16 months with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center.

As State director of the EDA, Mr. Pecone was an invaluable ally for local communities and economic development organizations, guiding them through the economic development process for planning, technical assistance, business loans, construction and special programs for assistance related to natural disasters, base closings and severe industrial dislocations or curtailments.

Noteworthy Pennsylvania EDA investments achieved during his tenure include brownfield restorations, creation of a statewide revolving loan fund, base closing assistance, restoration of areas impacted by hurricanes and tornadoes, construction of several technology incubators, workforce development initiatives, construction of many industrial, business and commercial parks, initiatives to combat the effects of job losses in the coal and steel industries and construction of roads, sewage and water systems and bridges.

More than 30 years have passed since I first met Tony during the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes, which devastated the Wilkes-Barre area in 1972. His can-do spirit and practical approach to stimulating economic activity shaped my overall impression of the EDA and

made me a life-long fan of both Tony and his agency. Always courteous, Tony was also tough and fair in his determination of which projects were worthy of Federal funds. Every applicant seeking EDA funds learned to expect hard questions but also wise guidance as Tony worked to make sure that every EDA project was a successful project. Although few of them know his name or even the name of his agency, thousands of Pennsylvanians have jobs because of Tony's hard work. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Pecone upon the completion of a career that has helped so many people achieve a better quality of life. Mr. Pecone's singular dedication to improving communities deserves special recognition and I am pleased to be able to enter a tribute to him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THANKING AMERICA'S DIPLOMATS FOR SUKKOT ASSISTANCE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sincere thanks to the men and women of our Embassy in Egypt and, particularly, to Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone. I also want to commend Assistant Secretary David Welch, Deputy Assistant Secretary Liz Dibble and a host of their colleagues in the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. I am pleased to report to the House that through vigorous behind-the-scenes engagement with the Government of Egypt, America's diplomats made a critical difference for millions of Jews across America and around the world celebrating the Jewish holiday Sukkot.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I began to receive reports that merchants purchasing the palm fronds used for ritual celebrations of the holiday, were discovering that their historic supply in Egypt was in jeopardy. In previous years, Egyptian palms had provided the overwhelming proportion of the roughly one million palm fronds used for the holiday. As commanded in the Bible, Jews celebrate Sukkot with "the four species"—a lulav, composed of palm, myrtle, and willow branches, and a citron, an aromatic but inedible citrus fruit called an etrog—that are used to sanctify the holiday.

This year, however, Egyptian agriculture officials, reportedly concerned about the health of Egypt's orchards of date palms, ordered a cessation of the harvest and export of palm fronds expected by Jewish communities around the world.

For those unfamiliar with the holiday, a sudden palm frond shortage may have seemed a bit odd, if not downright absurd. I would compare it, however, to a situation where 2 weeks before Christmas, people began to suddenly discover that there were no Christmas trees available for sale, or that those few trees on the market were undersized, illegally cut and only available for triple the normal price.

I am proud to say that once informed of the situation, our diplomats acted swiftly, speaking forcefully on behalf of the entire United States and drawing upon the strong and deep ties

between our government and Egypt's. Again and again over a 2 week period, our diplomats pressed officials in the Egyptian government to increase the number of cuttings available and to ensure their successful export. And here, I also want to express my thanks to Egypt's ambassador, Nabil Fahmy and his staff at the Egyptian embassy for their very important role in conveying the seriousness of this problem to their colleagues in Cairo.

In the end, I believe there was enough. The Egyptian government heard our concerns and did the best it could to accommodate our needs. Ultimately, I'm told the restrictions on cuttings were effectively lifted in the last hours. There were shortages in some places, some people had to pay more than usual, and more people had to share than in years past, but no one, to my knowledge, was unable to fulfill the religious requirements of the holiday.

Mr. Speaker, the week-long festival of Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and is often referred to in Hebrew as z'man simchataynu, "the season of our rejoicing." I can tell you, there would have been a lot less rejoicing absent a lot of hard work by America's diplomats. I know the whole House will join me in thanking them for this extraordinary effort.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER B. HEARNE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher B. Hearne, son of Sue and Jerry Hearne, of Kearney, MO. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 8 years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has earned 36 merit badges and held several leadership positions. Chris has served his troop as patrol leader, librarian, chaplain's aide, and den chief. Chris is a brave in the tribe of Mic-o-Say, where he has taken the name "Last Son of Silent Snow Goose." In addition, Chris has earned the World Conservation Award, H. Roe Bartle Heritage Award, and Mile Swim Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Chris removed litter and rubbish from the half-mile entry road into Kearney's Mack Porter Park. He also constructed "No Littering" signs along the road.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher B. Hearne for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WHY AMERICA IS A GREAT NATION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina was a natural disaster. Its effects were

compounded by human ineptitude, as FEMA, State officials and the President all reacted slowly and without adequate concern for their fellow Americans.

We rightly witnessed their inaction and un-concern on our television sets.

But there is another America, an America which responds to distress with generosity and a willingness to pitch in. An America which provides an outpouring of funds for the Red Cross and countless truckloads amounts of donated supplies.

I want to tell you a story about what is best in America.

When they learned of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, two members of the Vermont's South Burlington Fire Department, Lieutenant Micah Genzlinger and Firefighter Trevor Poor, volunteered to help their fellow firefighters on the hard-struck gulf coast. They went to areas devastated by the hurricane and helped other fire companies fight fires. They also helped citizens rebuild and recover from the destruction wrought by the storm. And, in the spare time they could muster, they helped their fellow firefighters take care of the damage to their own homes.

And the fire company they left behind? According to their union contract, firefighters must be given notice of shift changes two weeks in advance. Generously, all their colleagues waived this requirement, so that they could cover all shifts, without charging massive overtime to the city of South Burlington. They changed their work schedules to make sure the city was protected and that Genzlinger and Poor's trip to help others did not undercut local fire protection, all at no additional cost.

This story was repeated all over America. In Vermont, firefighters from Barre and Hartford also headed south to help their firefighting brothers and sisters. In other states, firefighters responded to the call to protect and rebuild—as they always do, not only for their own cities and towns, but for Americans everywhere.

This kind of generous solidarity is what makes America a great and wonderful Nation.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, back in June, the Supreme Court handed down a ruling in *Kelo* versus City of New London that states that the Government can seize personal property for the purpose of economic development. Mr. Speaker, this ruling embodies everything for which our Founding Fathers did not want this country to stand.

Mr. Speaker, the *Kelo* ruling is a gross misinterpretation of the Fifth Amendment. The Fifth Amendment allows for the government to obtain private property for public use, meaning this property can be obtained for the government to build something such as a school or a road. However, the *Kelo* ruling allows the government to take property owners' farms, private businesses, or even our homes so that big-time investors and businessman can come in to our towns and cities and build shopping malls and supermarkets on the property that is rightfully owned by our constituents.

I support H.R. 4128, The Private Property Rights Protection Act, and urge all members to do so. This piece of legislation will allow us as Members of Congress to protect our constituents against the loophole created in *Kelo* by the Supreme Court, and will allow us to punish those state and localities that take advantage of their citizens and of this ruling.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Galilee Missionary Baptist Church as they join together in celebration of the 5th Pastoral anniversary of their esteemed Pastor Reverend Charles M. Morgan. They will be celebrating this very momentous and special occasion November 18–20, 2005.

Reverend Morgan was born to the late James and Lillie Morgan in Kansas City, Missouri. He completed his undergraduate studies at Ottawa University and Calvary Seminary. He is presently matriculating in the McCormick Theological Seminary. Reverend Morgan is an active member of the Baptist Minister's Conference of Gary and Vicinity, and he is the 2nd Vice Moderator of the Northern Indiana Missionary Baptist District Association. He is a regular participant at the Stephen Olford School for Expository Preaching in Memphis, Tennessee. Reverend Morgan has also been an instructor for the Baptist Minister's Seminar for the past two years.

From its modest beginning, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church has emerged as a cornerstone of the community. Under Pastor Morgan's guidance, Galilee continues to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements. The proud members of the church are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during the years.

Though Reverend Morgan is dedicated to the Galilee Family, he has never limited his time and love for his family. Reverend Charles Morgan and his wife Francine have three daughters, Natasha (deceased), LaRonda Lindsey, and Rasheeda; one son, Johan; and two grandchildren, Manuel and Jackson.

The celebration weekend begins on Friday, November 18, 2005, with the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church Family and Pastor Charles L. Emery. On Saturday, November 19, 2005, there will be an evening of love and appreciation at the Turkey Creek Country Club Banquet in Merrillville, Indiana. The celebration banquet will conclude the festivities on Sunday, November 20, 2005, when the church honors Pastor Morgan and his family with special guests, including Pastor Mike Nicholson and the Mount Calvary Baptist Church Family of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Reverend and Mrs. Charles M. Morgan and the Galilee Missionary Baptist Church on their 5th Pastoral anniversary. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 27, 2005 I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall vote No. 553. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 553, the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2005.

RECOGNITION OF UNPARALLELED CIVIL SERVICE BY MR. STEPHEN WHITMORE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to highlight the extraordinary service of Mr. Stephen Whitmore, who is currently the operations officer for the Department of Public Works at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Born on July 16, 1923, Steve has selflessly served the Nation, the Army and Fort Dix for more than 60 of his 82 years.

Mr. Whitmore's service began during World War II when he enlisted in the Army on July 19, 1943. As a soldier assigned to the 1st U.S. Army, he served as a participant in many of the major battles fought in central Europe from November 1944 until April 1946. On April 29, 1946, Steve completed his Army out-processing procedures and immediately began working as a Fort Dix Civil Service Employee.

Since then, Mr. Whitmore has worked for the Directorate of Public Works, DPW, in a variety of capacities. As you would expect, Mr. Whitmore's impact on the facilities and infrastructure of Fort Dix has been enormous. The majority of the buildings currently utilized on Fort Dix were built after he arrived in 1945. Consequently, he participated in some manner in the construction of almost all of the facilities in use today and has continued to maintain and repair them throughout his 60-year tenure. Furthermore, all of the utility systems on Fort Dix were either installed or expanded under his personal guidance. In fact, the current electrical grid system for the Installation is one that he designed and either helped construct with a crew of high-tension electricians or oversaw the construction in a supervisory capacity. Also occurring under his watch was the conversion of the Installation's heating systems from coal to oil to natural gas.

In addition to Mr. Whitmore's consistent and exceptional execution of his core DPW responsibilities, he has been a key factor in ensuring the successful implementation of non-traditional missions. One of those events concerned a mission assigned to Fort Dix in 1999 entitled Operation Provide Refuge. In short, Fort Dix was tasked to provide temporary housing for over 4,000 Kosovar refugees. Therefore, in addition to performing his duties as Chief of the Public Works Division, Steve assumed responsibility for providing utilities for all of the temporary facilities, installing almost five miles of temporary fencing, constructing playgrounds, maintaining the grounds in all the areas of operation, constructing and

installing signs throughout the Installation, establishing and rewiring a welcome center, assisting in the construction and installation of tent frames and even the installation of bed frames and mattresses in the dormitories. His overall work plan execution was magnificent and he guided his personnel through 18 hour work days, 7 days a week to get the work done, while still maintaining tremendous morale throughout his work force.

Another monumental mission for which Mr. Whitmore's expertise and ingenuity ensured a successful outcome was the role he played in establishing the security of Fort Dix immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This was a daunting task since the Installation had never been closed to through traffic in its 84-year history. He assembled a crew and equipment and worked with the police to close the Installation in a matter of hours. His expertise and unmatched knowledge of the Installation ensured that the dozens of means of access other than the main entry/exit points were identified and blocked. He has continued those efforts over the past 4 years to identify, develop and execute major projects to convert the temporary measures to permanent security barriers to include the installation of a 3½-mile-long security fence.

Mr. Whitmore's most recent accomplishment pertains to the exceptional work he has done on the development and execution of projects to establish a Forward Operating Base, FOB, to provide vital, realistic training to our soldiers being mobilized in support of the Global War on Terror. Steve planned and supervised the construction of the FOB, which is the largest, most complex FOB in the continental United States. Based on his actions, the FOB was built and maintained to a standard that allows the FOB to house, service, and provide realistic field training to approximately 2000 mobilizing soldiers at one time. Whether it was the electrical system, which he designed and had executed, the water and drain systems so that the Soldiers could take showers, the heating of the tents and even the clearing of the roads when it snowed, he was the one who made it all happen. Mr. Whitmore had the ideas, the ability to bring the ideas to resolution and ambition, energy and interest to accomplish whatever was necessary to make the FOB a success.

To this day he continues to provide the oversight for all utility services. His knowledge of the systems is legendary as is his ability to trouble shoot and quickly correct all system problems. He is a shining example of someone who adheres to the Army values in both his professional and personnel life. A man of strong resolve and unmatched abilities, Steve is a true patriot worthy of our Nation's thanks and praise.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM LAWRENCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Lawrence, retired letter carrier and member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, San Francisco Branch 214, who is being honored by the Letter Car-

riers at their Biannual Congressional Breakfast.

Bill Lawrence began his service to our country when he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 16. After serving in China, he was honorably discharged and settled in San Francisco in 1927. He worked for several years as a cable car conductor, one of the few union jobs in San Francisco at the time. In July 1938, he began his career as a Letter Carrier, immediately joining Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Bill served as Secretary of Branch 214 for 6 years, and delivered mail on the streets of San Francisco for 35 years, until he retired at age 65.

In 1970, Bill Lawrence was elected to the non-partisan City Council of nearby Brisbane, California, and over the next two decades, served twice as Mayor. After his tenure on the City Council, Bill pursued his dedication to public service as the Legislative Liaison for the California State Association of Letter Carriers. Bill has always said that his love of politics stems from the rewarding feeling he gets from helping people. Now at age 97, Bill continues to delight children of all ages when he dresses as Santa Claus during the holidays.

I've always been proud to call Bill Lawrence my friend. He is a kind and generous man, and without his support and that of his wife, Honey Bee, I would not have been elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bill Lawrence's countless contributions to our community and our country. Because of him and his distinguished service, we are unmistakably a better and more decent nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ALL KIDS
HEALTH CARE PROGRAM OF ILLINOIS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich for establishing the All Kids health care program, and the Illinois General Assembly for passing this important initiative. This plan makes Illinois the first State in the country to provide comprehensive health insurance to every child in the State.

The All Kids program will target the estimated 253,000 uninsured children in Illinois; providing coverage for children from working families that earn too much to qualify for existing programs but not enough to purchase private health insurance.

According to a National Health Interview Survey, 39 percent of American children did not visit a doctor in the past year, and 38 percent have no regular facility to utilize for their health care needs. Because their parents cannot afford hospital bills, uninsured children are six times as likely as insured children to have serious health issues go untreated. As a result, they are at higher risk for hospitalizations and missed diagnoses of serious illnesses. Improved health care for children is not the only benefit of this program. Studies show that children with health insurance are more likely to attend school consistently.

Additionally, the grades and test scores for insured children are substantially higher than their uninsured peers.

By moving a majority of Illinois' Medicaid beneficiaries into a primary care case management program where every beneficiary has their own family doctor, the State will save millions of dollars that will be used to pay for the All Kids program and provide more Illinois children with basic health care.

The State of Illinois has taken responsibility for the children and their families who do not have this critical coverage. The program enacted by the State of Illinois is set to begin in July 2006.

With 45.8 million uninsured Americans in 2004, it is time to stop ignoring the problem and to start taking action. I congratulate the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Blagojevich for a job well done, and I urge my colleagues to take a look at what Illinois is doing to help provide health care for children.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE
REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1461) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes:

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, I first want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) for their leadership in getting this bill, H.R. 1461, to the House floor. Reforming the regulatory structure for the housing GSEs has clearly been a long time in the making.

I am going to vote for this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. I believe that we must act as a body to move this process forward, and work with the Senate to draft a bill that President Bush can sign into law. We are all aware of the economic damage that took place in the wake of other corporate accounting scandals, be it Enron, WorldCom or Tyco. It is important to remember that in terms of assets, Enron was only about one-sixteenth the size that Fannie Mae is today. WorldCom and Tyco were about one-tenth the size of Fannie in terms of assets. These facts cannot be ignored. Legislation is long overdue.

However, I continue to have many concerns about certain provisions in H.R. 1461 that I believe could do more harm than good to our housing markets. Primarily, I am concerned that H.R. 1461 does not go far enough to protect our financial markets from the systemic risk posed by the giant portfolio holdings of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned us that without the needed restrictions on the size of Fannie and Freddie's portfolios, our ability to preserve safe and sound financial markets is significantly put at risk. H.R. 1461 would not give the new regulator the necessary tools to appropriately limit the size of the portfolios of these two institutions. The combined retained portfolios of these two

companies now exceed \$1.6 trillion, up from \$136 billion in 1990. Portfolios of this size do nothing to promote liquidity in the secondary market. Unfortunately, H.R. 1461 will do nothing to protect American taxpayers from having to bail these institutions out should they fail.

I am also concerned about what is commonly referred to as “mission creep” of these two entities. Congress has given Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac very special charters, unique government-granted benefits that we do not grant their competitors. These benefits exist so that they can create liquidity in the secondary mortgage market and help create the American Dream for middle and low income families. In recent years, these entities have been clearly engaging in areas outside of this charter, including airplane leasing, purchasing tobacco bonds, and providing international consulting. H.R. 1461 does not provide the necessary bright line between the activities in which Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac can and cannot engage. While Congress prohibits Fannie and Freddie from originating loans, we clearly need a better definition of loan origination and what separates the primary market from the secondary market. Not only would a bright line provide clarity, it would enhance competition in the primary market and prevent these taxpayer-backed institutions from engaging in activities outside of the scope of their charters.

Further, I have concerns about raising the conforming loan limits for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as H.R. 1461 does. Raising these limits will do nothing to help Fannie and Freddie meet their affordable housing goals. The conforming loan limits were originally established to ensure that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are focused on increasing the availability of housing for middle and low income Americans. These limits are necessary to prevent Fannie and Freddie from competing with private sector lenders, who already meet the demand for larger home loans. Raising the conforming loan limits is a clear extension of Fannie and Freddie's charters. That is not the purpose of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee worked diligently and in good faith with myself and many of my colleagues who had serious concerns about the creation of an affordable housing fund for both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in H.R. 1461. I applaud him for his willingness to include language in this bill that seeks to prevent affordable housing fund monies from being abused for political purposes. However, it is my hope that as this bill moves toward conference with the Senate, we take a serious look at the need to create another housing fund of this nature, especially one that has the potential to be abused for political purposes.

Our housing finance system is driven by the creation of jobs, supported by sound economic policy. Under the policies of this administration and this Republican Congress, this system has never worked better, and we now have achieved the highest rate of homeownership in the entire history of the United States of America. Mr. Chairman, the truth is there is no greater housing program than the American free enterprise system.

IN HONOR OF JASON KAMRAS,
NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Jason Kamras, the 2005 National Teacher of the Year. A native of Sacramento, Jason teaches mathematics at John Philip Sousa Middle School, here in our Nation's capital. Since being named Teacher of the Year in April, Jason has traveled across the country as an educational spokesman and will continue to do so through next June. As his friends, family and colleagues celebrate Jason's outstanding achievement, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this truly remarkable American.

The son of Linda and Marvin Kamras of Sacramento, Jason attended Shalom School, Sacramento's only Jewish day school, where he was a member of their inaugural class of 1978. In 1991, he graduated from Rio Americano High School at the top of his class. Later that fall Jason began his freshman year at Princeton University, where he graduated with a degree in public policy in 1995.

After graduating from Princeton, Jason promptly applied for a position with Teach for America, a wonderful program that allows for recent college graduates to work in needy public schools. It was Teach for America that first brought Jason to John Philip Sousa Middle School in the fall of 1996 where he taught mathematics to sixth graders. At Sousa he immediately poured his energy and passion into the school's students.

Three years of teaching math at Sousa convinced Jason that he could do much more to have a positive impact on students' lives. In 1999 he left the classroom and earned a Master's Degree in Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. When he returned to Sousa, Jason taught a combined class of seventh and eighth graders for 2 years in social studies. This “looped” class allowed him the opportunity to truly connect with his students and push them to achieve everything within their grasp. In the 2002–2003 school year, Jason has returned to teaching math, this time at the seventh and eighth grade levels.

Outside of the classroom, Jason has successfully worked with school administrators to double the instructional time devoted to math and has incorporated technology and real world situations into the math curriculum, in order to meet today's students' needs. His love for photography led him to establish the EXPOSE Program, in which students create photo-essays with digital cameras that depict their lives and neighborhoods. Those photos are often shown to the public at the Capital Children's Museum and other places around Washington. In 2001, Jason was awarded the Mayor's Art Award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education for his work with the EXPOSE Program, just one of the many honors he has earned for his dedication to our Nation's youth.

What makes Jason an excellent teacher and role model is that he works tirelessly to give his students the tools they will need to make their dreams come true. Whether it is with complex math problems or artistic self expres-

sion, Jason has an ability to connect with students, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds, and give them the attention and support they need to help them meet their goals.

Mr. Speaker, as Jason Kamras continues to speak on behalf of school teachers across our country, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. His love for teaching is fortunately shared by countless other teachers in classrooms throughout the Nation. At 31 years of age, Jason has accomplished so much in the classroom; accomplishments that allow him to serve as a model for others to follow. On behalf of the students at Sousa that have benefited from his compassion, dedication and creativity, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Jason continued success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RACHAEL SCDORIS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bend, Oregon resident Rachael Scdoris. Rachael is a legally blind, competitive dog sled racer and cross-country runner who today was awarded the prestigious Casey Martin Award—an annual award that Nike bestows to any disabled person in the world who has overcome their adversity and pursued their sport of choice with the same passion and competitive spirit that renowned golfer Casey Martin has demonstrated in his career. Rachael was born with congenital achromatopsia, a genetic disorder that severely limits her vision. Nonetheless, she was the youngest musher to complete a 500-mile sled dog race, and the first disabled athlete to race the 1,161-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 2005.

Introduced to the sport of dog sledding by her father, Jerry, at age 3, Rachael's lifelong dream was to compete in the Iditarod. In 2003, because of her disability, Rachael was refused entry by the Iditarod Trail Committee, but after her determined appeals, the committee finally voted to allow her the aid of a visual interpreter on another sled in the 2005 Iditarod.

Though Rachael's dogs became ill and she was forced to drop out after 750 miles, she has already entered the 2006 Iditarod. She is the spokesperson for her vision foundation and the annual “Race for Vision” sled dog race in Oregon, which raises money for Healthy Beginnings, an organization that provides free vision screening, eye exams, and glasses to low-income individuals. She has twice been named one of the 100 Most Outstanding Female Athletes in the Nation, an ABC “Person of the Week” and a 2004 Olympic Torch carrier.

Rachael was selected from over 44 applicants to the Casey Martin Award because her story mirrors that of Casey Martin who in 1998 sued the PGA Tour for the right to be able to use a golf cart in competition. Casey, another Oregonian, has Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, a rare, incurable and degenerative condition that causes chronic leg pain and makes it physically impossible for him to walk

during tournaments. I applaud Nike for sponsoring this award in the name of Casey Martin because he embodies the beliefs that we as Americans all hold dear—the importance of diversity, a commitment to sports, and the fact that everyone should have the right to participate.

I've had the great pleasure of spending time with Rachael and, like countless others, am tremendously inspired by her strong sense of determination and amazing successes. It is my honor to represent Rachael in the U.S. Congress, and I congratulate her for her outstanding achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Friday, October 28, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following votes: On rollcall vote No. 555 I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall vote No. 556 I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of the distinguished Civil Rights leader, Rosa Parks who died Monday, October 24, 2005 at the age of 92. A woman of great character and conviction, Rosa Parks inspired a generation to change the course of history.

For half a century, the story of Rosa Parks—of a woman with the courage to challenge an unjust system, has been marked in history as a lesson for both young and old. While riding a bus home from her job in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks defied the segregation laws of the time and refused to give up her seat to a white passenger. She was then arrested and fined \$14. Her bold and single act of defiance sparked a 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system by the African American community and ultimately the breakdown of segregation in the south.

Born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama, she married Raymond Parks in 1932 after briefly attending Alabama State College in Montgomery. As the first female member of the Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Rosa Parks worked tirelessly with her husband to encourage and increase voter participation in the African American community. Following the couple's move to Detroit, Rosa Parks began her 20-year service to the 14th district of Michigan as an administrative assistant in Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Jr.'s office. She also founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development to encourage leadership among Detroit's youth in 1987.

Although modest about the pivotal role she played in the Civil Rights movement, Rosa

Parks has been recognized with some of the most prestigious awards and honors in the country. Among her many awards, she was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which is our Nation's highest civil award for merit and integrity, and the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. She was also awarded the Springarn award by the NAACP that recognizes the highest achievements amongst African Americans and the Martin Luther King Jr. Award that recognizes those who work for social change through nonviolent means.

The longest journey begins with the smallest step. Rosa Parks' actions seemed small on that December day, but they accelerated the Civil Rights movement and enkindled a passion for equality in a generation. I had the honor of joining our colleague from Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, in March to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights March in Alabama and the many heroes who were inspired by Mrs. Parks. I was moved by their struggles and motivated by their strength. However, the journey towards true equality remains unfinished and the most fitting tribute to Mrs. Parks would be for us to continue that fight in her memory.

And so today, I join the country in bidding farewell to a true American hero and inspirational leader. Mrs. Rosa Parks will be greatly missed by her family, the Nation and the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA: ONE OF THE 100 BEST COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of Sylacauga, Alabama, a unique town in the Third Congressional District that was recently named by America's Promise as one of the 100 best communities in America for young people.

As its 13,000 citizens know, Sylacauga still retains that old-fashioned charm which defines small town America. Yet it's also a forward-looking community that prides itself on its schools, and recognizes that the children of today are our leaders of tomorrow. In that regard, the city has created a variety of programs geared for children and teens, including a program known as BRIDGES. This unique initiative, which was identified by America's Promise as one of the city's crown achievements, provides school age children special opportunities to participate in recreational activities while under supervision of volunteers and staff. It also gives older children the opportunity to do volunteer work and give back to their community.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a proud achievement for the City of Sylacauga, and further demonstrates the importance its citizens place on educating its children. I am proud that one of East Alabama's small towns has made this prestigious list, and salute the citizens and local officials who helped make this achieve-

ment possible. I thank the House for its attention to this important matter today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 28, 2005, I was unable to vote on agreeing to the conference report for H.R. 2744, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (rollcall No. 555); and on agreeing to H. Res. 523, Condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel (rollcall No. 556). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legendary Rosa Parks, who passed away last week. I had the great honor of meeting Rosa Parks several times throughout her life. The first time was in the late seventies when she was a guest speaker at Monterey Peninsula College in my district. I was also on hand when she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999.

Each time I saw Rosa Parks, I was again impressed that a woman of such slight stature started such a large scale movement for civil justice. Rosa Parks' decision not to give up her bus seat to a white man during the time of segregation was a courageous act, simple and without violence. Rosa Parks did not yell, swear or wave her hands around dramatically to get the Nation's attention. In fact, she did not even move. Today, the consequences of her choice can be seen throughout our society. I continue to believe that a more just society will not be achieved by water hoses, tear gas, night sticks and hostility, but through peaceful means including compromise and fairness.

Fifty years later, Rosa Parks' actions don't seem radical or risky, but when you are the first one to take a stand, it is lonely. Indeed, Rosa Parks' death has given us the opportunity not just to remember her life and her actions, but also to remember the actions all of those who have stood up in the face of injustice.

My mother was one of these people, like Rosa Parks. Though she died when I was a young adult, my father often told me of a bus ride my mother took in New Orleans in the mid 40s. My sister and I were young children at the time, and we all used the bus system to get around the city. Buses in New Orleans were segregated at that time, but during one ride my mother decided to seat us in the "colored" section, although there was room in the "white" section of the bus. When the bus driver saw what my mother had done, he told her that she and her children had to move to the

white section. My mother refused, so the driver told her to get off the bus. Rather than change our seats, she shepherded my sister and me off the bus.

I had a chance to share this story with Rosa Parks when I finally met her and she enjoyed hearing about my mother's actions. Though my family did not live in a segregated state, both my parents realized they still had a duty to combat prejudice.

As a member of Congress, I have been honored to visit the heartland of the civil rights movement with fellow colleague and civil rights champion, Representative JOHN LEWIS. During a trip with the Faith and Politics Institute, we visited the Voting Rights Museum in Birmingham, AL, the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, AL, and reenacted the march across the Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL. I cannot fully express how much I gained from visiting these sites with some of the original participants in the civil rights movement. Hearing about the pain and suffering they endured throughout those times was tempered by the joy we felt in our mutual support for a just cause.

I was honored to join my colleagues by attending Rosa Parks' memorial service and supporting the unprecedented resolution that allowed her body to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda. Rosa Parks is one person who made a difference and whose actions will forever call on all of us to stand up—or remain seated—for civil justice.

HONORING MRS. WILLIE JEAN
YOUNGBLOOD ON HER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a special tribute to Mrs. Willie Jean Youngblood in honor of her 90th birthday.

Mrs. Youngblood was born on November 7, 1915 in Bullock County, AL, and was the third of eight children of the late Cleveland and Julia Dennis. She later married Monroe Youngblood, a construction worker, of Bullock County. In search of better opportunities, the couple moved to Birmingham where they raised eight children. Mrs. Youngblood earned a living as a cook at the Thomasine Café and a service worker at the historic Tutwiler Hotel.

Mrs. Youngblood was a nurturing mentor for young mothers in her community. The Youngblood home was also the gathering place for many young children in the community, including the current mayor of the city of Birmingham, the Honorable Bernard Kincaid.

While Mrs. Youngblood may not have had an abundance of material wealth, she passed on a wealth of love and hope to her children and her community.

May God bless Mrs. Youngblood and her family on her 90th birthday and for many years to come.

COMMEMORATION OF ROBERT H.
HINCKLEY, JR.

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize the life and contributions of Robert H. Hinckley, Jr.

A lifelong resident of the State of Utah, Mr. Hinckley's 88 years were distinguished by his optimism, energy, and a commitment to public service.

Robert Hinckley, Jr. was born as the first child of Robert H. Hinckley Sr. and Abrelia Clarissa Seely Hinckley in Mt. Pleasant, UT, although he grew up in Ogden, UT and always considered that his home. Growing up during the Depression era, Hinckley began working in the family's business, Hinckley Dodge. After graduation from Ogden High School, he attended Stanford University and then the United States Military Academy from which he graduated in 1942. He married Janice Scowcroft, his high school sweetheart, in 1944 and described their 63 years of marriage as the "very best part of my life." During World War II and Korea, he was a decorated pilot earning the U.S. Air Force's Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star. Following a 13-year military career, he returned to Utah to manage the family's automobile business in Salt Lake City, UT. Outside of business, Hinckley loved horses and owned Arabian horses. He counted his greatest success as his four children, all of whom survive him.

Hinckley's life demonstrated commitment to his community. In 1988, he built upon his father's legacy becoming board chairman of the Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah. In this capacity, he was a champion for intelligent, thoughtful, and ethical engagement in the public arena. He encouraged students of all political persuasions to approach public service and politics with a sense of purpose and diligence. He worked hard to create opportunities for all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, to have access to internship opportunities. He dramatically stepped up the activities of the Hinckley Institute and oversaw the doubling of its endowment.

This year the Hinckley Institute of Politics is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Over 4,000 interns have served local, State, and Federal offices, interest groups, polling firms, and campaigns since 1965. The Hinckley Institute pioneered the Utah State legislative internship program, and interns now serve in critical staffing capacities during every general session. The Hinckley Institute internship program has been studied by colleges and universities across the United States. The Hinckley Institute sponsors the Hinckley Journal of Politics, an undergraduate research publication. It is one of only four undergraduate political science journals nationwide.

The Hinckley Institute has influenced countless local, State, and Federal elected officials, party activists, lobbyists, journalists, and citizens. Recent studies of former Hinckley interns demonstrate an incredibly high degree of civic engagement, through many avenues, for years after graduation. The Institute has provided a needed center for intelligent, thoughtful, dynamic conversation about important issues, where students can test their beliefs

and access opportunities for empowerment within their community and government.

Robert Hinckley's philanthropic commitment to education and students extends beyond the on-going value of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, including the establishment and funding of scholarships at the University of Utah, Utah State University, Weber State University, and Brigham Young University. In this capacity, as well, he and his family have helped create a large community of educated, actively engaged, ethical, and interested citizens.

In all his endeavors, Hinckley was noted for his positive outlook and energy. His contributions will long benefit the students and people of Utah. He was truly an asset to his community and will be greatly missed.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
MARINE CORPORAL JONATHAN
"J.R." SPEAR, KILLED IN IRAQ
OCTOBER 23, 2005

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Marine Corporal Jonathan "J.R." Spears, was lost to us in Iraq on October 23.

He was a proud Marine and an exceptionally fine man who joined the greatest military service in the world.

I had the solemn honor of attending Corporal Spears funeral today and meeting his incredible family and friends. I now know how blessed they are to have known such a fine man. His parents, Timothy and Marie and his sisters Jennifer and Jessica display courage, dignity and strength that is moving and inspirational. I wish I could have known him as they did as he seemed like a truly amazing person.

J.R. used to work in a sandwich shop and he selflessly gave a portion of each pay check he received to buy food for the homeless. While playing football in high school he got up to 265 pounds. In order to fulfill one of his life dreams, joining the Marines, he had to lose nearly eighty pounds, which he did.

He was a young man who, by the time of his death at 21, had already planned out his life. He wanted to go to college after leaving the Marines Corps and then go on to be an FBI or Secret Service Agent. I know very few young people who have their life plan set by the time they reach 30, let alone 21. J.R. was a driven man who knew what he wanted and made it happen.

A stanza in the Marine Hymn written over a century ago says: "If the Army and the Navy ever gaze on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines." I know that J.R. is up in heaven guarding the streets for all of us. I am certain he has been welcomed with God's saving grace.

His sacrifice is a solemn reminder to us of the risks that all of our men and women in uniform make every day to keep us safe.

I know that our Marine Corps will hold him in their hearts forever, as will we all.

May God bless Corporal Spears, his family and all of our men and women in uniform.

CONDEMNING IRANIAN PRESIDENT
MAHMOUD AHMANDINEJAD'S
THREATS AGAINST ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly condemn the deplorable remarks made this week by the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmandinejad and I commend my colleagues, Congressmen TOM LANTOS (D-CA) and HENRY HYDE (R-IL), for authoring this important resolution—H. Res. 523, Condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmandinejad's threats against Israel—and bringing it to the floor of the House of Representatives.

The statement by Iran's President that "Israel must be wiped off the map" demands the strongest condemnation from the entire international community. Moreover, it is reprehensible that Mr. Ahmandinejad made these statements to a group of students. In an area of the world where violence has led to intense hardship and suffering the Iranian President's statement only promotes more violence. It is a sad day when the leader of Iran would poison the minds of young people rather than inspire them to build a peaceful Middle East.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, November 1, 2005, I missed rollcall votes numbered 557 and 558. Rollcall vote No. 557 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3548, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located on Franklin Avenue in Pearl River, New York, as the "Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr. Post Office Building." Rollcall vote No. 558 was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 3989, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37598 Goodhue Avenue in Dennison, Minnesota, as the "Albert Harold Quie Post Office."

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 557 and 558.

ON INTRODUCING THE "ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS FOR KATRINA VICTIMS ACT"

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Congressman RANGEL of NY, Congressman CONYERS of MI, Congressman THOMPSON of MS, Congressman JEFFERSON of LA, Congressman FRANK of MA, Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE of TX, Congressman PAUL of TX, Congresswoman JOHNSON of TX, Congresswoman LEE of CA, Congressman HASTINGS of FL and Congressman AL GREEN of TX in introducing the "Elimi-

nation of Barriers for Katrina Victims Act." We are pleased to be joined by a coalition of almost 100 national, state and local organizations who have expressed their support for the legislation, such as the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, American College of Mental Health Administration, Drug Policy Alliance Network, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), NAACP, NAADAC—The Association for Addiction Professionals, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, and the National Urban League, and the list is growing as word of the legislation gets out.

Millions of Americans were displaced from their homes due to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita and hundreds of thousands have not been able to return and may never be able to do so. Having lost their homes, their communities, their jobs and other support systems, most have required emergency food, clothing, shelter, medical, or monetary assistance. According to FEMA reports, an estimated 2.1 million Americans have already applied for federal aid. Unfortunately, many of these individuals and their families are in desperate need, but, due to a prior drug conviction, will not be able to receive certain federal assistance available to other victims in need. While it is impossible to know for sure how many families will be denied public assistance because of drug convictions, it is likely in the tens of thousands.

More than 1.5 million Americans are arrested for drug offenses every year. Several federal laws disqualify those with felony convictions to receive certain federal benefits. A recent GAO report commissioned by myself and Congressman RUSH of IL reveals that these disqualifications are having a huge impact on receipt of federal benefits for which those with prior drug convictions would otherwise receive. For example, an estimated 41,000 students were denied college assistance during the 2003/2004 academic year because of drug convictions.

While the GAO was only able to collect data from 15 public housing agencies, out of more than 3,000, those 15 agencies denied housing to almost 1,500 families because of past drug violations in 2003 alone. That indicates that there are thousands of families and tens of thousands of individuals unable to receive housing benefits because a family member has a drug conviction.

The drug conviction ban on eligibility for federal benefits also applies to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or the TANF program. TANF eligibility applies to families with minor children. One study reflected that almost 25 percent of drug offenders released from prison in 2001 were eligible for TANF benefits, but were permanently barred from receiving it due to their state's application of the federal ban for a drug conviction. While some states do not apply the federal ban completely, other states, such as Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia, where many of the displaced families are staying, have fully applied the ban.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have inflicted suffering on millions of people. The suffering will fall even harder on victims denied aid because of past drug offenses. Parents who have lost everything and are struggling to feed themselves and their family will be denied TANF and food stamps; students who have lost their school, tuition, fees, room and board,

but could continue their education in another school willing to accept them, or who were in school elsewhere when their parents lost the ability to continue paying for their education, will be denied student loans; and entire families that have lost everything in the disasters will be denied housing—all due to the federal bans for a past drug conviction.

The "Elimination of Barriers for Katrina Victims Act" applies only to past drug offenses, some of which were many years ago, and suspends the disqualification for only a 3-year period. This temporary adjustment period in federal disqualifications would allow families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita a chance to put their lives back together through the same means as other victims who suddenly lost their homes and livelihood through no fault of their own. Therefore, we are introducing this bill today and urge our colleagues to quickly enact it into law to assist families who are otherwise hopelessly destitute because of the disasters and the impact of a drug conviction.

REINSTATEMENT OF THE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL INCOME TAX

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Superfund Revenue Reinstatement Act of 2005, a bill to reinstate the corporate environmental income tax, which expired in 1995. The bill will provide a dedicated stream of revenue for our Nation's communities as they struggle to clean up the Nation's dirtiest abandoned hazardous waste sites and recapture lost jobs where they are most needed.

First passed by Congress in 1980, the corporate environmental income tax provided a dedicated stream of revenue for the so-called Superfund trust fund. In 1995, the last year before this corporate tax expired, it raised approximately \$700 million. At a rate of 12/100 of one percent on corporate profits over \$2,000,000, the tax was virtually without any real impact on business, but supported worthy and rightful public purposes—creating jobs, rebuilding our urban communities, and cleaning up a legacy of unfettered industrial activity. The oil industry—not one company but the entire industry—paid just \$38 million in 1995. That's about what is earned by the industry in the first hour of the first day of the new business year.

Reinstating the corporate environmental income tax would raise about the same amount of revenue as it did in 1995, according to estimates made by the Joint Committee on Taxation in 2003. That's a negligible burden to provide dedicated funds for restoring superfund sites. But those are estimates are a few years old. With corporate profits at current levels, the revenue derived could certainly be higher.

And, where are these superfund sites? In urban areas of course, where redevelopment is needed and where jobs are needed. But what's been happening? Industry is developing greenfields in the far out suburbs because they don't want to touch superfund

sites. And hundreds of thousands of brown-fields across the nation sit idle instead of being returned to productive use. Can we really continue to afford leapfrogging existing and valuable infrastructure to build anew?

That's why the Superfund needs dedicated revenue. In 1995 when the tax expired, the Superfund held a significant surplus, so few people were concerned. Today, however, as many had predicted, the surplus is gone. An empty trust fund, annual budget squabbles, recent budget cuts, and larger and more complex site cleanups have hurt the superfund program, slowing or delaying cleanups. The lack of dedicated revenue for superfund has also put pressure on other parts of the EPA's budget. That pressure surely has been felt by the Brownfields program, which is our premier program to bring sites back to productive use and hasn't yet been fully funded at authorized levels.

It is all the more distressing that we let the corporate environmental income tax lapse 10 years ago—forgoing \$7 billion of dedicated funding for cleanup and redevelopment.

That is why it is time to rededicate ourselves to creating jobs, rebuilding urban America, and eliminating this core cancer in so many of our communities. And isn't it refreshing to advocate for a plan with worthy objectives and a method to pay for it!

HONORING ROSA PARKS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Rosa Lee Parks.

Mrs. Parks's refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Alabama in 1955 triggered a 381-day boycott of buses, organized by the then little-known Baptist minister Martin Luther King Jr. She did so without knowing the support she would rally.

Her single act of quiet courage and defiance on that December day undeniably became a watershed moment in the history of U.S. civil rights.

It's most fitting that at today's funeral in Detroit, R&B legend Aretha Franklin sang "The Impossible Dream" in honor of Mrs. Parks. It was that action nearly 50 years ago that sparked what seemed at the time to be the impossible dream of the modern civil rights movement, culminating in the 1964 federal Civil Rights Bill.

In 1996, Mrs. Parks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded to civilians who make outstanding contributions to American life. In 1999, she was awarded the Congressional gold medal, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Mr. Speaker, with the permission of this House, I would like to enter into the RECORD the words of a civil rights leader in my community, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin K. Watts, Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in New London (CT).

"Rosa Parks was a woman of character, commitment and courage. When she sat down the world stood up against injustice, bigotry and hatred. Mrs. Parks was not the first to refuse to live down to the status quo of inequality yet because of her unimpeach-

able character she unwittingly became a spark that ignited the flame of passion that created ultimate change. Like Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball, the right character was necessary in order to break the back of racism. Her commitment to social justice gave her iconoclastic status as the epitome of courage and commitment. Her passing leaves a void in civil society that each one of us should seek to fill by living lives of high moral value always refusing to sit at the back of the bus of life and ready to accept our place at the forefront of the battle for social change."—Rev. Dr. Benjamin K. Watts

Mrs. Rosa Lee Parks, this great American hero, deserves not only our tributes and gratitude, but our continuing commitment to peace, justice, equality, and freedom for all.

May God rest her soul.

IRAN NONPROLIFERATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify a confusing or mistaken impression that may have been left by one of my colleagues during the House floor debate on S. 1713, the Iran Nonproliferation Amendments Act of 2005, for which I served as the majority floor manager.

The purpose of enacting S. 1713, as amended by the House, is twofold: to strengthen our nonproliferation tools in dealing with Iran and also Syria, and at the same time enable necessary cooperation between NASA and U.S. businesses with their Russian counterparts on the International Space Station. Just to be clear, in no way does S. 1713 favor our space goals at the expense of effectiveness in nonproliferation. In fact, the time-limited authority we give NASA to purchase, either directly or through U.S. companies, Russian space goods and services, is in my view a net plus for nonproliferation, not a minus.

That said, I want to stress that the legislation the House adopted, and the intent of that legislation, allows NASA significant flexibility in using Russian space goods and services to support the assembly and operation of the International Space Station between now and January 1, 2012. NASA is free to make payments pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement on ISS "or any protocol, agreement, memorandum of understanding, or contract related thereto." As Chairman HYDE pointed out in his floor statement, this means that after enactment of this legislation, NASA can enter into new arrangements to meet our needs regarding ISS, but that NASA will not enter into new obligations beyond or unrelated to the ISS.

The primary limitations with respect to ISS payments are the sunset date of January 1, 2012, and the existing statutory requirement that the specific Russian entities to be paid have not been sanctioned as proliferators under the earlier sections of the Iran Nonproliferation Act.

I point all of this out because my friend and colleague, Mr. SHERMAN, mistakenly suggested during the floor debate that the phrase

"necessary to meet United States obligations" added to the Hyde-Lantos substitute to S. 1713 implies that NASA could not purchase Russian goods or services if any other alternative was available. That is certainly not the plain meaning of the phrase, nor the intent behind it. However, because Mr. SHERMAN explicitly invited correction, I am doing so here in some detail.

Here are three examples of arrangements that are wholly consistent with the legislative text, the Senate and House floor statements by the architects of this legislation, and the Administration's request for relief, but which would not be allowed under Mr. SHERMAN's interpretation.

First, NASA has stated it wants to use the Russian Soyuz crew capsule to exchange long-term ISS research crews, even during the time the Space Shuttle is flying, because this will allow the Shuttle astronauts to focus on the job of assembling the Space Station to meet our international partner commitments during the Shuttle's limited remaining lifetime. Under the previously negotiated agreements between our countries, Russia is no longer obligated to provide NASA with Soyuz crew transport seats. Therefore, in this example, NASA would not be paying Russia for an obligation they have promised to us. However, because NASA could theoretically use the Space Shuttle as an alternative to carry out crew transfer, albeit at some risk and a cost to our other ISS commitments, Mr. SHERMAN's inference would suggest NASA cannot do this. Given that the primary exigency for adopting this legislation is enabling continued U.S. occupation of ISS beyond April of next year, which requires payment for training and launch to ISS of a NASA astronaut on the next Soyuz launch, Mr. SHERMAN's interpretation is incorrect.

Second, Chairman HYDE's statement explicitly makes clear that cargo resupply services to ISS using technology developed by Russian companies would be legal under the amended Act, again within the limitations I stated above. This would be the case regardless of whether the Space Shuttle might technically be available to deliver cargo to ISS, namely through the middle of 2010.

Third, some bidders may wish to use a very reliable and capable U.S. launch vehicle, one which the Defense Department uses right now to launch critical military satellites, and which happens to incorporate Russian rocket engines. Nothing in this bill was meant to preclude such activities, even though there might be similar launch vehicles which do not use Russian rocket engines. Mr. HYDE's statement makes this clear.

Beyond those examples, I would offer the words of House Science Committee Chairman BOEHLERT as further disputation of Mr. SHERMAN's reading. In his floor statement, Chairman BOEHLERT declares that "by setting a specific end date for our current relationship with the Russians" the bill "encourages NASA to find commercial firms that are not dependent on the Russians to carry cargo in the future." While I may disagree with that goal or a sunset date's effectiveness as a management tool, if Mr. SHERMAN's reading were true, the sunset date would be superfluous, because once a U.S. provider whose service had no Russian content emerged, NASA would be barred from any further payments, let alone purchases, from companies which do use

some Russian content. Clearly Chairman BOEHLERT's interpretation is the same as Chairman HYDE's and my own: Russian content is allowed up until the January 1, 2012 date.

Finally, I would just echo the comments made by Chairman CALVERT during the floor debate: the ISS program requires long-term flexibility for NASA to safely and cost-effectively execute both for our taxpayers and to meet our international commitments. We are partners with Russia in the Space Station. Both NASA and its commercial providers need to be able to exchange goods and services at ISS with nonproliferation compliant Russian entities for the lifetime of the station, particularly as we seek to engage the U.S. private sector in ISS operations. Last week the House made clear that even in a time of great concern over the manifest threat from Iran, we want NASA and industry to have this ability at least through January 1, 2012.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 1, 2005, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3548, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located on Franklin Avenue in Pearl River, New York, as the "Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr. Post Office Building (rollcall 557); and on H.R. 3989, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 37598 Goodhue Avenue in Dennison, Minnesota, as the "Albert Harold Quie Post Office (rollcall 558). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make votes today on the House floor because of an untimely and unexpected crisis requiring me to travel back home to be with my family in California. Unfortunately, I missed recorded votes and would like my intentions included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 1606—Online Freedom of Speech Act.

I would have also voted "yea" on H.R. 4061—Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Management Improvement Act of 2005. This important bill will help improve Veterans' health services by improving the technology resources of the Veterans' Affairs Department.

The VA has spent about \$1 billion per year for the last decade to improve its information technology systems. This new bill will provide some key oversight to ensure that this money is spent in the most efficient way possible, and to reorganize the VA's information technology to best serve the healthcare needs of the Nation's Veterans.

While there has been recent improvement in the VA's technology systems, there is a lot they can do to provide better healthcare to Veterans. I am proud to support this effort to better the lives of the men and women who have given so much for this country.

Had I been present, I would have also voted "yea" on H.R. 1691—John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation Act.

SUPPORT FOR INSTRUCTING CONFEREES ON THE FY2006 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for instructing conferees on the FY2006 Defense Appropriations bill to include the amendment by our colleague in the Senate, JOHN MCCAIN. This provision would simply provide for uniform standards for the interrogation of persons under the detention of the Defense Department and a prohibition on cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment of persons under custody or control of the U.S. Government.

Senator MCCAIN knows the ravages of war and devastating effects of inhumane treatment at the hands of an enemy. He and other American soldiers during the Vietnam War were subjected to terrible treatment that no human being ought to endure. In recent floor remarks, Senator MCCAIN explained that during his time in captivity he and his fellow American soldiers drew strength from knowing that the institution to which they belonged, the U.S. military, and the country they served stood for the highest of principles and ideals. They believed that the U.S. would never treat prisoners of war the way that they were being treated.

No one would disagree that "torture, cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment" is unjust, but there is clear evidence that it is also ineffective. When put under extreme levels of pain or duress during interrogation, a detainee is more likely to say anything to stop the pain, regardless of its accuracy. Moreover, our own cruel treatment of others legitimizes the torture of American citizens. Look no further than the desecrated bodies of American citizens and soldiers killed in Iraq for tragic evidence of this reaction. Furthermore, torture and inhumane treatment aids in the recruitment of terrorists and fuels further terrorist activity.

As members of Congress, we have the Constitutional obligation, under Article I, Section 8, to speak out on this issue and others related to treatment of foreign detainees in war. We also have a moral obligation to oppose cruel and degrading treatment of human beings, and a patriotic obligation to stand up for the honor of this country.

In the wake of the scrutiny and embarrassment that our nation has endured following the treatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, it is imperative that we proclaim to the rest of the world that this policy reflects the law of the land and the conscience of our country. Providing our soldiers with clear, written guidance on how to treat detainees not only protects their interests but under-

scores the freedoms and values we cherish as Americans and that we claim to be the reason we have gone to war in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

Today, as a Congress we must respect and honor our nation, those that risk their lives to serve it, and the high standards and ideals on which it is based. Supporting the McCain amendment is not an issue of political difference; it is an issue of national identity.

The McCain amendment is needed to close a loophole in current policy that does not explicitly describe standards for foreigners held under U.S. custody abroad. This amendment reiterates and clarifies our existing policy that prohibits the use of torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment by U.S. soldiers and agents who are detaining and interrogating prisoners in the global war on terror, requiring that they use the techniques sanctioned in the Army Field Manual on Intelligence and Interrogation.

I urge my colleagues to resist any efforts to accept a watered down version of Senator MCCAIN's language that would grant exceptions for the CIA to conduct its own investigations of detainees in locations overseas that are independent of the Army Field Manual. Such a move, which apparently is being orchestrated by the Vice President's office, would only defeat the intent of the provision adopted in the Senate and cause further confusion among military and civilian service people charged with detainee interrogations.

The Army Field Manual has been used as the standard for interrogation guidance since it was established during the Reagan Administration. The Manual does not cast any technique into stone, but changes with time and includes techniques and descriptions that are classified so as not to be uncovered by enemies.

In a sign of broad bipartisan support, the Senate overwhelmingly approved the McCain amendment in a 90 to 9 vote. In addition, 28 retired military leaders, including General Shalikhshvili, General Hoar, and General Colin Powell, have supported legislating the use of the Army Field Manual through the McCain amendment.

In today's global war on terror, men and women in the armed forces are charged with the critical task of detaining and interrogating prisoners of war and enemy combatants without clear instructions on what is and what is not permissible. These ambiguities contributed to the absence of standards that resulted in the degrading and inhumane treatment that we, and the rest of the world, witnessed at Abu Ghraib and what apparently occurred at Guantanamo at the hands of young and ill-advised soldiers.

The abuses at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo stained the honor of our country and our military. I know that most of our constituents want to amend these wrongdoings. In order to do this, and to help protect the treatment of American soldiers who may be held as prisoners of war, we must give our troops clear instructions on acceptable treatment during detainment and interrogation, without equivocation.

Let us not shrink from the responsibility that stands before us; let us rise as a united body

to defend our principles, uphold our proud traditions and articulate to the world what America stands for. I urge my colleagues to express their support to Chairman YOUNG to retain the McCain amendment, without modification, in the conference agreement to the FY2006 Defense Appropriations bill.

TRIBUTE TO ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF HARTFORD-NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT AND ARAM "OTTO" BAYRAMIAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished congregation, St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Hartford-New Britain, Connecticut, which is celebrating its eightieth anniversary on November 6, 2005. The Church is also honoring in memoriam Aram "Otto" Bayramian, a beloved parishioner and extraordinary leader.

St. Stephen's is the oldest Armenian church in Connecticut and one of the oldest in our Nation. Armenians began immigrating to the United States in large numbers in the late 19th century when troubles in their historic land, now part of Eastern Turkey, began mounting. They brought their Christian faith with them and began conducting religious services in rented churches. Fundraising for St. Stephen's began in 1912, but it was interrupted several times by world events. The groundbreaking took place in 1925, the culmination of many years of arduous work.

St. Stephen's is honoring extraordinary parishioners during its 80th birthday celebration and the event's special honoree is Aram "Otto" Bayramian, who died in 1996. He served St. Stephen's with distinction for more than 20 years.

Otto's father, Umrah Bayramian was one of the founders of St. Stephen's. Otto, a lifelong resident of New Britain, was one of the most respected business and community leaders in the region. He was a decorated veteran of World War II, flying eight subpatrol and 40 missions successfully, retiring as a Captain in the Air Force.

Upon returning home, Otto joined his father in the family business, founding the Epicure Market in Farmington, Connecticut. It became known as the "gold standard" in the food business throughout Connecticut.

Otto graced the stage of the theatre, including the New Britain Repertory, the Mark Twain Masquers, the Producing Guild, and the Waterbury Civic Theatre.

He was an organizer and Charter member of the Joel Eshoo Post 1 Assyrian American War Veterans which was established in 1946.

His great love was St. Stephen's Church and he did everything possible to strengthen its future.

It is highly appropriate that as St. Stephen's celebrates its founding 80 years ago, that the life of Otto Bayramian and his countless contributions to the betterment of St. Stephen's is celebrated as well.

It is also fitting that the Church's three archdeacons, Aram-Sumpad Khachoyan, Sebouh Asadourian and Edward Varjabedian

are being honored for their 25 years of dedicated service on the altar. The Annual Youth Award recipient is choir member Maral Firkatian, and parishioners Dirouhi Avakian, Mary Boornazian and Susan Shabazian will each be presented with certificates of appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Hartford-New Britain on the occasion of its 80th anniversary, honoring the life and contributions of the beloved Otto Bayramian, and in extending thanks to those being honored at the anniversary celebration.

Our Nation has been enriched by the lives and the faith of generations past, as well as parishioners of St. Stephen's today. We are unmistakably a better community and a more decent Nation because of the Church, because of Otto Bayramian and because of the contributions the Parish continues to make.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING
COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with 17 other bipartisan, original cosponsors, am introducing the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act (AMCA). This bill will help our manufacturing companies and their workers in a time of need. Right now, America's manufacturers are facing unprecedented international competition so it's critical that we pursue policies that make American manufacturing industries the strongest in the world.

In order to be competitive on the global market, our manufacturing base has to have access to timely supplies of competitively priced raw materials. Our manufacturers have to sell their goods at globally competitive prices, so they need to get their inputs at globally competitive prices too.

The problem is excessively high raw material prices are hurting our manufacturers. For example, U.S. steel prices are now the highest in the world. As just one example, the price for hot-rolled coil is over \$100/ton higher than anywhere else in the world. When the costs of inputs for our manufacturing base are higher than the rest of the world, it undermines their ability to compete.

Government policies are part of the problem. For example, there are now over 150 different import restrictions covering over 20 steel products from over 30 nations. Some of these have been in effect since the 1980's, and cover steel products that are more expensive here than anywhere in the world. These restrictions can cause large distortions in the U.S. market for raw materials, and can inflict harm on the manufacturers and workers who need those materials to make their products. They hobble our manufacturers in tight markets, and choke off our larger manufacturing base.

However, the astonishing reality is this harm to our manufacturing base is being ignored when decisions about import restrictions are made. The International Trade Commission (ITC) and Department of Commerce (DOC) don't even allow the industrial users any

meaningful participation in the process. Think about this. American companies are directly impacted by these decisions, but they are not even considered in the process. In fact, foreign producers have more rights in this process than our own American industrial users. This is especially disturbing since steel consuming jobs outnumber steel producing jobs by over 60 to 1. This is extremely unfair and unwise.

I testified at the ITC twice earlier this year during hearings on 5-year sunset reviews for duties on hot-rolled steel and stainless steel sheet and strip. Duties on these types of steel had already been in place for 5 years, and now the ITC was required to make a decision about whether they should continue. Companies who need these types of steel testified at these hearings too and provided information about the trouble they have getting the quantity and quality of the steel they need at competitive prices. When a manufacturing company can't get the raw materials it needs, that causes damage to the company particularly when they have to deliver their products just-in-time. Because of these duties, the industrial users are suffering damage.

I also introduced House Resolution 84, which urges the ITC to consider the effects of duties on industrial users during these sunset reviews. This resolution has 48 bipartisan cosponsors. All we were asking was that the ITC consider the effects of these duties on the consuming companies.

When the report explaining the ITC's decision to keep the duties in place came out, I was shocked that there was no evidence at all that the ITC considered the effects of the duties on the industrial users. Nothing. These are American companies with American workers, but there was no evidence the ITC listened at all.

Furthermore, during one of the hearings a representative for the steel industry stated "the Commission is precluded from considering the impact of imports of the subject merchandise on domestic steel consumers in determining whether the antidumping order should be revoked." This person was saying in effect that the ITC is not even allowed to consider the effects of their decisions on our manufacturing base. This is just wrong and it must be addressed to prevent unnecessary damage to our manufacturing base.

Antidumping and countervailing duty laws are necessary and they're in the interest of the United States, when applied in an objective and fair manner, to prevent unfair pricing and subsidized competition. But it's not fair and it's not acceptable when American companies being hurt by duties on imports can't even be considered in the process.

Mr. Speaker, basic fairness and common sense require us to change the law. My bill will address this problem by giving industrial users legal standing to participate in the antidumping and countervailing duty processes. It will require the ITC and the DOC to consider the information provided by the businesses that use these products. This is only fair. Furthermore, the process for imposing duties will remain the same, with the addition of a simple test that looks at the downstream harm. Under this bill, when making decisions on import restrictions, an economic impact test would be conducted by the ITC to determine the net effect on the American manufacturers affected by those decisions. In order for a restriction to

be imposed, the test must show it would provide greater benefit than harm to U.S. interested parties in that case. If not, it can't be imposed. This is only fair, and makes sure our policies are economically sound.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill to help our American manufacturing base be as competitive as it can be.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO
WHITE SOX ON WINNING THE 2005
WORLD SERIES

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution honoring a sports team that will go down in history as one of the best there ever was: the 2005 Chicago White Sox. For a city so rich as Chicago in sports tradition—and sports misery, for that matter—our first World Series championship since 1917 has generated fond new memories for a whole new generation of Chicagoans.

Perhaps most remarkable about the team that has restored baseball pride to Illinois is its recipe for success: teamwork, teamwork, and more teamwork. Ozzie Guillen, the man who led this team of non-superstars, is in immigrant from Venezuela whose coaching future was measured by some experts in terms of months. Players such Scott Podsednik, A.J. Pierzinski, and Bobby Jenks, who provided some of the series' most thrilling and memorable moments, were mostly cast-offs from other teams. This Chamber, and indeed this country, can learn a lot from the team-first principles which the Chicago White Sox proved are the ultimate winning formula.

Mr. Speaker, I'm particularly proud of the manner with which the Chicago area celebrated our team's victory. The moment Paul Konerko caught the final out of Game Four, millions of Chicagoans and thousands of my own constituents poured out into the streets of most every neighborhood, and managed to conduct themselves in a wildly enthusiastic, yet safe and dignified manner. The victory celebration downtown attracted 1.7 million people and had to be held on a Friday because nobody wanted to wait until the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the world-class city that is Chicago now has another world championship calling card. I salute the 2005 White Sox and their fans, and I urge passage of this measure honoring this utterly deserving team.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO
WHITE SOX ON WINNING THE 2005
WORLD SERIES

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chicago White Sox for their historic 2005 season which culminated in their first World Series victory in 88 years.

Earlier this year, many Chicagoans realized that this team was something special. For example, their style of play was unique. The White Sox placed emphasis on aggressive base running, solid pitching, strong defense and strategic hitting. This style of play became known around the league as "Ozzie ball," named after the White Sox former shortstop and now manager, Ozzie Guillen.

The White Sox front office caught on to this trend and began marketing the Sox with their "Grinder Ball Rules" ad campaign. One of these "rules," Grinder Ball Rule #7, was demonstrated in a print ad featuring White Sox closer and Japan native, Shingo Takatsu with the line: "To win, you need defense, speed and discipline . . . And immigration."

That ad captured two of the important components of this historic team: the hard nosed ball playing of the Sox and the diversity of players that came together to win the championship as a team.

The White Sox dugout at times sounded as if it were a mini-United Nations. Jose Contreras and Orlando Hernandez from Cuba. Damaso Marte, Luis Vizcaino, Pablo Ozuna, Juan Uribe and Timo Perez from the Dominican Republic. Freddy Garcia and manager Ozzie Guillen from Venezuela. Tadahito Iguchi from Japan. And last, but not least, the Korean baseball hero, always smiling bullpen catcher, "the Hulk," Man Soo Lee.

Their story is so familiar, so hopeful, for so many immigrants in this country—men and women who, like them, come to the United States to work hard, to provide for their families and loved ones, so that they, too, can live a better and safer life and pursue the American Dream.

And that is why this resolution is so important, deserving and justified. Throughout history people have associated baseball with the strengths of American culture and equated the game with the best of our country's character and resolve.

And in Chicago, we have found a team that embodies the character of our great city, especially the South Side of Chicago, where part of my District lies. The team, much like the South Side, is composed of close-knit friends who do their work diligently and without much fanfare. You can see it in the fan base, especially when you watch games on television. When the White Sox swept the Red Sox in the first round of the playoffs, celebrities like Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Matt Damon, and Robert Redford were easily identified by the television cameras panning around Fenway Park. But when the next round came back to Chicago, the cameras weren't as active looking for Bernie Mack, James Denton (the plumber from "Desperate Housewives") and Dennis DeYoung of Styx.

And I think that's just fine with the South Side and our city at large. The White Sox didn't win the World Series by relying on the star power of a few individuals. Instead they had to work together and grind out every game with blood, sweat and, after the champagne popped in the clubhouse, after the last game of the year, tears of White Sox heroes who all share the spotlight equally with some of the best fans in baseball. Congratulations.

CONGRATULATING TOM GRACE
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a sincere congratulations to my good friend Tom Grace upon his retirement as a social worker from the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Mental Disabilities. Tom Grace worked for 30 years in the Developmental Disabilities Service Office in West Seneca, New York.

Tom is a well respected union official in Western New York; in 1981 he was elected as the first President of Division 167 of the Professional Employees Federation. Tom was the Western New York Regional Coordinator for PEF from 1985 through 1987. For many years he served on the Executive Board of the Buffalo AFL-CIO District Council and presently serves on the Executive Board of the Western New York AFL-CIO Federation.

Tom Grace is also a distinguished social activist. Tom has always been a leader in the fight for social change in the United States. He is a staunch Democrat, and over the years he has been most generous with his time and resources. Tom's social activism goes back to his college days. On May 4, 1970 Tom was one of the students wounded at Kent State while protesting the Viet Nam war. Tom's spirit is unwavering. He is committed to speaking out when he sees injustice; be it in the work place or the social theater that makes up this Nation.

Tom has a reputation for fearlessness; he is modest in stature but grand in his convictions. Mr. Grace will be greatly missed but I am sure he will not travel far from the causes so dear to him.

It is with great pride and gratitude I stand here today to recognize Tom Grace for his many years of support and for his commitment as a community advocate. I wish Tom, his wife Peggy and their children TJ and Allison many years of continued health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO JACK BASKIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. FARR and I rise today to honor an extraordinary citizen of our community, Jack Baskin. Throughout his life, Mr. Baskin has made significant contributions to the betterment of Santa Cruz County and he is held in the highest regard throughout our region.

Jack Baskin, now a retired engineer and general contractor, was born in upstate New York, the son of immigrants. During the Great Depression his family made many sacrifices in order for him to go to college, and he was the first member of his family to do so. He attended the University of Colorado where he studied mechanical engineering, later transferring to New York University where he earned his B.S. in aeronautical engineering.

After serving as an aeronautical engineer during World War II, Mr. Baskin moved West

and in 1948, acquired his California Professional Engineers License. He settled in Central California, and founded Jack Baskin, Inc., focusing on building affordable housing in the San Francisco area, in Santa Cruz and in Watsonville.

Jack Baskin is dedicated to his community and has given generously to it. Among the local organizations that are beneficiaries of Mr. Baskin's time and donations are Cabrillo College and Dominican Hospital. He was the founder of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, and he has participated in many other organizations for children, families, and senior citizens. The University of California, Santa Cruz, UCSC, has been a long time recipient of Mr. Baskin's extensive contributions. His donations have supported computer engineering, instruction in the arts, the Institute of Marine Sciences, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, an endowed chair in psychology, and a scholarship in literature. Mr. Baskin chaired the UC Santa Cruz Foundation for 2 years and remains a trustee. His commitment to education is memorialized by two prominent buildings named in his honor on the UCSC campus.

Jack Baskin is a model citizen and a highly respected member of the community. Thousands of individuals have benefited from his generosity and dedication to higher education and community health care.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Baskin's life is an eloquent statement about what one committed citizen can do. We ask all our colleagues to join us in honoring him for all he has done to strengthen our community and to make our country better.

HONORING DR. J. KIRK SULLIVAN,
OF IDAHO, FOR RECEIVING THE
DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT
AWARD

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique individual in Idaho of high moral character and immense talent, J. Kirk Sullivan.

J. Kirk Sullivan is widely known in Idaho as the current chairman of the Idaho Republican Party, but Dr. Sullivan is much more than that. He is a husband, father, grandfather, friend, engineer, entrepreneur, businessman, and most recently, he is the recipient of the highest award granted by the National Eagle Scout Association—the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

As several of my colleagues know, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award is a rare honor indeed, given only to those who have held the rank of Eagle Scout for 25 years or longer, have gained status of fame or eminence in their life work, and have shared their many talents with their communities on a voluntary basis. In each of these categories, Kirk not only meets the requirements, he far surpasses them.

Kirk has participated in many organizations and boards, currently serving as the Ore-Ida Council Boy Scouts of America President, as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Public Employees Retirement System of

Idaho, Board of Trustees for Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, and as a member of the Idaho Governor's State Science and Technology Advisory Council.

As mentioned earlier, Kirk is married to Elizabeth M. Sullivan, they have two children and three grandchildren. Originally from South Carolina, Kirk attended Clemson University where he earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in chemistry. He also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Program for senior executives. During college he was a member of U.S. Army Reserve.

In his professional life, Kirk is a partner in Veritas Advisors, a philanthropic fundraising and political consulting firm. Kirk retired from the Boise Cascade Corporation in 1998 after 27 years with the company. He retired as vice president of Governmental and Environmental affairs. He also worked for the FMC Corporation for 13 years as an engineer, technical superintendent, and marketing manager.

In reviewing the criteria for the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, I learned that only nominations of truly distinguished individuals, those receiving extraordinary recognition, fame, or eminence, are accepted. Previous award recipients include President Gerald Ford, Astronaut Neil Armstrong, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, retired General William Westmoreland, Senators RICHARD LUGAR and LAMAR ALEXANDER, film director Steven Spielberg, and one of our former colleagues J. J. Pickle of Texas.

This is a pretty impressive cast of characters with which Kirk's name will now be associated. He is deeply deserving of this honor and I want to take this opportunity to thank Kirk for his service to his community, the State of Idaho, and the United States of America. Kirk is a good citizen, a good friend, and a great model for us all.

A TRIBUTE TO LOCAL HEROES OF
HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two heroes whose leadership following Hurricane Katrina is truly inspiring.

Randy Boone, a retired U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Survivalman, recently wrote me a letter describing the selfless actions of two soldiers from the Army's 1108th Blackhawk squadron: Sergeant Stacy Eubanks and Sergeant Krings.

Immediately following the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, Sergeant Eubanks, whose own home was damaged, loaded his truck with ice and water that he delivered to the Mississippi coast. He went from house to house distributing all of the ice and water. He made a second trip that same day, and the following day was joined by a neighbor. Others were soon inspired to join him. Sergeant Eubanks and his fellow volunteers delivered over 5 tons of ice, hundreds of boxes of food, and several hundred cases of water throughout south Alabama and Mississippi. He also organized a caravan with a tractor trailer truck and pickup trucks with trailers loaded with food, water, ice and medical supplies from Mobile to Gulfport, MS.

Sergeant Krings and his family live in Waveland, MS, a community that was completely wiped off the map in the path of Hurricane Katrina. Thankfully, Sergeant Krings' family is alive and well, but their home was destroyed. When Sergeant Krings returned after the storm to what previously was his home, he spotted a group of displaced and disoriented survivors of Katrina gathered in a Waveland K-mart parking lot. Sergeant Krings organized the group, built a temporary shelter and a makeshift triage unit, and began assisting the injured. This parking lot was given the name "Camp Katrina." Sergeant Krings remained there for days until he was able to get outside assistance. I understand that the location later became a portable military medical facility to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Waveland.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Sergeant Eubanks went to Waveland to locate comrades he had not been able to contact. Sergeant Stacy found Sergeant Krings at the "Camp Katrina" parking lot. The two tried to recover personal items from the remains of Sergeant Krings' destroyed home.

The 1108th Blackhawk unit stationed at Fort Shelby was training to go to Iraq in October, when Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast. Because of the massive destruction to our coastal communities and because many of these soldiers' homes were severely damaged or destroyed, it is my understanding that only 50 of the soldiers will be deployed to Iraq. Sergeant Stacy is one of the 50, and I was not surprised to learn that Sergeant Krings has volunteered to go as well.

Mr. Speaker, the selfless dedication of these two gentlemen to their communities in a time of crisis is a tribute to their families, their communities, and their service in the Armed Forces. I am grateful to have these men serving in our Nation's military, and I commend their service.

AN ASSAULT ON AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS THE HARDROCK MINING PROVISIONS OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE'S BUDGET RECONCILIATION PACKAGE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, among the many egregious provisions of the Budget Reconciliation recommendations recently approved by the Resources Committee is a raid on America's public lands and our natural resources heritage of almost unparalleled proportions. Included in these recommendations to be considered by the House Budget Committee is the worst kind of "sham reform" of the Mining Law of 1872 that has ever been promoted during my tenure in Congress and if enacted would result in a blazing fire sale of Federal lands to domestic and international corporate interests. It is actually a step backward from this 133-year old statute.

Signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant, the Mining Law of 1872 to this day governs the mining of valuable "hardrock" minerals such as gold and silver on Federal western public lands. The law allows private companies to patent—purchase—public lands containing valuable minerals for a mere \$2.50 to

\$5.00 per acre, prices set in 1872, without paying a royalty—production fee—on the mining of these minerals to the taxpayer. Since 1872, more than \$245 billion worth of minerals have been extracted from public lands at these bargain-basement prices. Further, a land area equivalent in size to the State of Connecticut has been sold to the mining industry for less than \$5 an acre. Since 1987, when I chaired the Energy and Minerals Subcommittee, I have worked to rewrite this antiquated law, introducing comprehensive reform bills in each successive Congress.

In addition, at my urging, since 1994, and with strong bipartisan support, Congress has placed an annual moratorium on the patenting of mining claim on Federal lands. To be clear, bona fide mining can and does take place on unpatented mining claims. There is no indication or proof that this over one decade ban on the patenting of mining claims has diminished in any respect the actual production of hardrock minerals from unpatented mining claims on western public lands. Yet, the Resources Committee's budget reconciliation recommendations would repeal the moratorium and reinstate patenting—the sale—of these public lands. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this provision would only raise an estimated \$158 million over the next 5 years by patenting public lands for \$1,000 an acre or fair market value of only the surface of the land—far from the true value of the minerals underneath. Let me emphasize that. The Resources Committee provision would allow the sale of potentially mineral rich public lands for the mere cost of the surface estate, completely ignoring the value to the underlying mineral estate. In contrast, an 8 percent royalty on the actual mineral production from mining claims which I have long advocated would raise \$350 million in the same time period. Keep in mind that if one mines coal on Federal lands, the company is required to pay either an 8 percent or 12.5 percent production royalty depending on whether the coal is deep or surface mined. Further, producers of onshore oil and gas on Federal lands pay a 12.5 percent production royalty. But producers of gold, or silver or copper. . . . zero, zilch, nothing.

The Mining Law of 1872 provisions adopted by the Resources Committee without benefit of public hearing also go far beyond just reinstating the much-maligned "patenting" provision. In fact, the provisions would require the Federal Government to sell such public lands to potential buyers, whether or not it is in the public interest to do so. Under the Resources Committee legislation, a prospective purchaser would merely (a) file a mining claim or mill site or "blocks of such claims," (b) present evidence of mineral development work performed on the lands they want to buy totaling at least \$7,500 per claim, (c) pay for a land survey, and (d) show up to get the deed.

As such, under these provisions anyone, including real estate developers and oil and gas companies, could purchase and develop natural areas that are currently important for recreation, wildlife, fisheries or regional drinking water supplies under the guise of a mining law. This would enable oil and gas companies to purchase the land they currently lease from the Federal Government. Not coincidentally, since most Federal oil and gas leases occur on Federal lands not protected by this legislation, this provision would put at risk the rents,

royalties and bonus payments currently collected annually by the Federal Government and shared with the States from onshore oil and gas leases which in fiscal year 2004 totaled \$1.850 billion.

Further, while the Resources Committee legislation would put off-limits to its provisions certain Federal lands, such as National Parks, from location of new mining claims, it does not protect National Forests and Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and other similar areas, even if these other areas have been withdrawn from new mining claim location. For example, there are currently more than 60,000 acres of mining claims in the Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, which would be available for sale under these provisions. And the Resources Committee provisions do not protect National Parks, Wilderness Areas, and National Wildlife Refuges that have unpatented claims within them. In National Parks alone, there are more than 900 unpatented mining claims that would be subject to sale for \$1,000 per acre if these provisions become law.

In addition, the bill does not require that the lands have been used or will be used for mining. As written, purchasing the land need only facilitate sustainable economic development. Since the term is not defined, sustainable economic development could include condominium construction, ski resorts, gaming casinos, name it. A unanimous Supreme Court said in 1979 that "the Federal mining law surely was not intended to be a general real estate law. The American Law of Mining, the standard industry treatise on the mining law, says that the law does "not sanction the disposal of Federal lands under the mining laws for purposes unrelated to mining." Yet, according to John Leshy, former Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, "Subtitle B is effectively a 'general real estate law' and will put in the hands of corporations, the keys to privatize millions of acres of Federal land."

In order to make it easier to dispose of Federal lands, these provisions would also free the potential buyer from performing "mineral development work" on each unpatented claim or block of claims or millsites. Instead, it states that this type of work should be performed on "the Federal lands identified and submitted for purchase." In other words, the potential buyer need only show that there has been some mineral development work somewhere on the lands being sold. The tracts could be huge because the proposal contains no limit on the acreage or numbers of claims that could be purchased.

Moreover, the provisions so broadly define "mineral development work" as to render it essentially meaningless. It could involve activities that never come close to the land itself; e.g., geologic, geochemical or geophysical surveys, which can be done remotely. It could involve, for example, buying and looking at satellite data, or going through USGS reports; or hiring a consultant to do on-line or library searches. And, it could include environmental baseline studies, or "engineering, metallurgical, geotechnical and economic feasibility studies." Again, consultants doing on-line searches and library work would qualify.

These provisions also prohibit any other fees or fair-market-value assessments to be applied to "prospecting, exploration, development, mining, processing, or reclamation, and

uses reasonably incident thereto"—which would prohibit the government from levying any royalty or other production fee on mining operations.

As a long time advocate of responsible reform of the Mining Law of 1872, after reflecting on these provisions, I find it hard to believe that they would even be supported by responsible elements in the hardrock mining industry. Further, they represent an assault on America's natural resource heritage and to the American taxpayer. And given my history on this issue, I find them personally insulting as well.

In closing, I would note that the following groups, on behalf of the millions of members from across the country, agree with me that these provisions should be deleted from the Resource Committee's portion of the Budget Reconciliation Package: Taxpayers for Common Sense Action, Alaska Center for the Environment, American Rivers, Amigos Bravos Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Native Ecosystems, Citizens for Victor Clark Fork Coalition, Colorado Environmental Coalition Colorado Information Networks for Responsible Mining, Earth Island Institute, Earthjustice, EARTHWORKS, Environmental Protection Information Center, Environmental Working Group, Friends of the Clearwater, Friends of the Earth, Friends of the Panamints, Gifford Pinchot Taskforce, Great Basin Mine Watch, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Guardians of the Rural Environment, Idaho Conservation League, Indigenous Environmental Network, The Lands Council, Maricopa. Audubon Society, Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, Montana Environmental Information Center, Mount Graham Coalition, National Environmental Trust, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Okanogan Highlands Alliance, Oxfam America, Rock Creek Alliance, Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, SHAWL Society, Sierra Club, Silver Valley Community Resource Center, Siskiyou Regional Education Project, Sky Island Alliance, South East Alaska Conservation Council, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Umpqua Watersheds, Westerners for Responsible Mining, Western Organization of Resource Councils, The Wilderness Society, and Women's Voices for the Earth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recommending that these provisions be stripped from the Budget Reconciliation Package if they are included by the House Budget Committee. America's public lands are held in trust for future generations. They deserve to be protected, not sold off at fire sale prices. American taxpayers deserve to be paid a fair royalty for the minerals taken from public lands, not to be cheated by a bill that sells their land to corporations for much less than its true worth. We can do better.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall votes Nos. 559, 560, and 561 on November 2, 2005. It was suspension

votes on H.R. 1606, the Online Freedom of Speech Act, H.R. 4061, the V.A. Information Technology Management Improvement Act, and H.R. 1691, the John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation.

MONICA ARMENTA LEAVES KOB-TV CHANNEL 4

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional New Mexican and journalist, Monica Armenta. She will be leaving KOB-TV Channel 4 to become the new executive director of the Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation.

Ms. Armenta has worked at KOB-TV for over 20 years, beginning as a 19-year-old intern and she has been the morning news show anchor there for the past 15 years. She has always held herself and her colleagues to a higher standard and this has resulted in the exceptional quality of her news coverage.

She has been recognized by numerous awards throughout her career in broadcast journalism. She is the recipient of the Rocky Mountain Emmy Award 1986–87 for her spot coverage of the Global Hilton hot air balloon crash and she was also given the UNM Professional Achievement Award. Ms. Armenta has been selected as one of New Mexico's 40 top influential people under 40 by New Mexico Business Weekly as well as a YWCA Woman on the Move. Ms. Armenta has also been a notable speaker at conferences, awards dinners and schools.

Aside from being a famous and reliable TV anchor that thousands of New Mexicans welcome into their home every morning, Ms. Armenta has shown herself to be a vital leader in New Mexico and her new job with the Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation is a testament of her continued commitment to enhancing her community.

Ms. Armenta has shown her dedication to bettering education and was a former journalism teacher at West Mesa High School. I commend her for embracing her roots in New Mexico and working to improve the educational system that has been such a part of her life. Ms. Armenta told a reporter in July, "I'm a product of APS and I feel it's time for me to give back."

I have enjoyed appearing with Monica on her program "Eye on New Mexico" and have consistently found her news coverage to be smart, informative and reliable. I admire her exceptional ability to balance her roles as a mother, a wife, a journalist and an activist.

Although she will be greatly missed as a journalist, I am certain that she will be a wonderful addition to the APS community. Her energy, intelligence and enthusiasm have always translated into success and I anticipate that her career in the education community will not only be rewarding for her as an individual, but will provide the Albuquerque Public Schools Foundation with a wonderful new voice of leadership. Although the state of New Mexico is losing a valued journalist we are gaining a vocal and significant advocate for the school system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Monica and her family luck as they embark on this new chapter in their life. Thank you Monica, for your service and contribution to New Mexico.

HONORING C.J. ENTERPRISES

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor C.J. Enterprises, Inc., for a successful 25 years of service to Tennessee's 3rd Congressional District and our country. Founded in 1980, C.J. Enterprises was created as a consultant service by Mrs. Carolyn Jones, who now serves as the President and CEO. Mrs. Jones is a product of Chattanooga, TN and a graduate of Emory University where she received her degree in health information management. Along with her husband Edward G. Jones, Mrs. Jones has dedicated her career to service in the field of records and information services.

Within its 25 year span, C.J. Enterprises has become one of the premier minority and woman-owned companies in the country providing records and information management services to health care facilities, government agencies, and commercial businesses. C.J. Enterprises has provided exceptional services to customers in over 30 states. The company's growth and success is evident through the numerous awards and accolades for its highly professional and effective services.

C.J. Enterprises is a true example of how dedication, hard work, and commitment can pay off in our nation. Congratulations to C.J. Enterprises, for 25 years of remarkable service to our region, state, and nation.

ANNOUNCING JEWISH SOCIAL ACTION MONTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the goals and ideals of Jewish Social Action Month.

This first annual Jewish Social Action Month, which is being held in conjunction with the Jewish month of Heshvan, November 3–December 1, 2005, was conceived by Kol Dor, an international group of next-generation young leaders. It is as a result of their vision of encouraging community service and social action that this important initiative is being undertaken around the world.

This month and these days have been selected since they follow Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the holiest days in the Jewish year. Heshvan follows a time when all Members of the Jewish faith face ourselves, look inward, and cleanse ourselves of all our misdeeds. Then, it is during Heshvan that we look forward to the promise of the New Year.

There is no better way to begin our New Year than by launching into a month-long serious effort to commit to social action. This commitment being made today is not a one-

year-only event. Every year during the Jewish month of Heshvan, Jews around the world will renew our commitment to making this world a better place.

Minister Michael Melchior and Member of Knesset Colette Avital deserve special recognition for their early and strong support for this concept. My Jewish colleagues and Jewish people in many other countries are also launching similar plans in their respective countries from Brazil to Britain.

Additionally, I would also like to make special mention of Kol Dor and the co-chairs of Jewish Social Action Month: Adina Danzig, Executive Director of the Stanford Hillel; Rabbi Gidon Sylvester, assistant to Deputy Minister Michael Melchior; and Yosef I. Abramowitz, CEO of Jewish Family & Life.

I commend the people working to make this goal a reality and urge my colleagues and people of all faiths to participate in community service and commit themselves to the principle of Tikkun Olam, to repairing the world.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL ROBERT F. ECKFIELD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Corporal Robert F. Eckfield of Cleveland, Ohio, who bravely and selflessly heeded the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Family, friends and service to others framed Corporal Eckfield's life. He gained personal strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most, especially his mother, Virginia Taylor; father, Robert Eckfield; stepfather, Norman Taylor; brothers and sisters, Nathan, Rachael and Norman; niece Makala; grandparents, Gerald and Doris Eckfield and William and Ruth Taylor; and his girlfriend, Beth Dunkle.

Corporal Eckfield's energetic spirit and expansive heart easily drew others to him. His steadfast focus on serving the public and his leadership abilities were evidenced throughout his life. He attended John Marshall High School and graduated from the Cleveland Christian Academy. Family, friends and service to others were the core components of his life. Corporal Eckfield honorably served three tours of duty.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Corporal Robert F. Eckfield. I extend my deepest condolences to his family members and many friends. The ultimate sacrifice, unwavering service and endless heart that framed his young life will be kept alive in the hearts and memories of everyone who knew and loved him best—his family and friends. Corporal Eckfield's courageous life and legacy of service will be forever honored and remembered by the Cleveland community and by our entire nation.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT MICHAEL WOLF FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Special Agent Michael Wolf who has served the Federal Bureau of Investigation for over 30 years. Just last month we learned that Special Agent Wolf would be leaving the New Haven Field Office to a new position at the Washington Headquarters. It was with great excitement that we heard Special Agent Wolf had been selected by FBI Director Robert Mueller, III to serve as Special Agent in Charge of the Critical Incident Response Group.

Throughout his career, Special Agent Wolf has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service and has dedicated a lifetime to ensuring the safety and security of our communities and our Nation. He has exhibited a deep commitment to public safety not only in joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but in successfully combating crime in a myriad of forms.

Joining the Bureau in 1973 as a physical science technician, Agent Wolf was soon appointed to the position of Special Agent. His first assignment took him to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he worked on applicant, white collar crime, organized crime, and narcotics matters. Just 5 years later, Agent Wolf was selected as a member of the Bureau's Hostage Rescue Team where he served for 3 years until his promotion to FBIHQ Supervisor, responsible for domestic terrorism matters. Transferred to the New Haven Field Office as a Field Supervisor, Agent Wolf headed the Crime/Drug Squad in Connecticut and supervised the successful development of a case against organized crime. He then went on to be promoted to the position of Inspector which brought him back to FBI headquarters.

For the last 6 years, Agent Wolf has served as Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Connecticut. I am so pleased to have this opportunity to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Special Agent Wolf for his gracious assistance to both myself and my staff during his tenure in New Haven. His door has always been open to us, always available to answer our questions or assist in any way that he could. It gives me piece of mind to know that Special Agent Wolf will be next serving as the Special Agent in Charge of the Critical Incident Response Group. Through the myriad of positions he has held and variety of responsibilities he has been charged with, Agent Wolf has developed a distinguished reputation and an impressive resume. With his knowledge, expertise, and strong work ethic, I have no doubt that this new division of the Bureau will be successful in their mission.

For his invaluable service and continued commitment to public service, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Special Agent Michael Wolf. I extend my very best wishes to Agent Wolf; his wife, Francine; and his daughters, Danielle and Lindsay as he accepts this new post in Washington, DC. I have no doubt that he will excel in this position and work dili-

gently to ensure the safety and security of our communities and our Nation. Good Luck and God Bless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Wednesday, November 2, due to a previous and unavoidable commitment. Therefore, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1606, the Online Freedom of Speech Act, rollcall No. 559; H.R. 4061, the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Management Improvement Act, rollcall No. 560; and H.R. 1691, the John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation Act, rollcall No. 561. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 559 and "yea" on rollcalls 560 and 561.

TRIBUTE TO THE 29TH ANNUAL ASIAN-AMERICAN CHARITY BALL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Asian-American Medical Association will be hosting the 29th Annual Asian-American Charity Ball on Saturday, November 5, 2005, at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana. Each year, the Asian-American Medical Association honors prominent, extraordinary citizens for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their tremendous efforts, these individuals are honored at the banquet and awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian American Medical Association is a great asset to Northwest Indiana. This organization has dedicated itself to providing quality service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District and has demonstrated exemplary service in its cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's annual charity gala, the Asian-American Medical Association will present Mr. Gus Olympidis with the Crystal Globe award. Gus is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Family Express Corporation based in Valparaiso, Indiana. He currently serves as a Director and a member of the Executive Committee of Centier Bank. He is also a Director of the Valparaiso Community Development Corporation, Director of the Northwest Indiana Forum, and Director of Valparaiso University's College of Business Administration Advisory Council. He also serves on the Porter County Foundation Board.

Amongst Gus's many positive accomplishments throughout his civic and convenience store industry engagements, he has also taken on the role of President of the Valparaiso Parks and Recreation Foundation, Chairman of the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Valparaiso University Town and Gown committee and a Board member on the Regional Development

Authority Committee. I am honored to commend Gus for his commitment and dedication to the well being of those who seek his knowledge and leadership. His efforts and hard work are worthy of the highest recognition.

Although Gus's career consumes much of his time, Gus has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife, Beth, have three children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian American Medical Society and Gus Olympidis for their outstanding contributions to the community. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO'S 137TH SPACE WARNING SQUADRON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a truly outstanding component of this Nation's defense—the 137th Space Warning Squadron based in Greeley, Colorado. For the fourth time in five years that squadron has won the Distinguished Mission Support Plaque. This coveted award is sponsored by the National Guard Association of the United States and is presented by Lt. General Daniel James, Director of the Air National Guard. Only five units from the entire Air National Guard are selected to receive this prestigious award recognizing superlative performance in the defense of our nation.

In congratulating the unit for its outstanding performance, I would like to give special recognition to the former commander of the 137th Space Warning Squadron, Brigadier General Select William E. Hudson, Air National Guard. During his nearly 10 years of service, from 1996 to 2005, Colonel Hudson served as Director of Operations and then as Commander of the unit. He led the unit through numerous real world and exercise operational programs. On September 11, 2001 and afterwards, Colonel Hudson ensured that the 137th Space Warning Squadron would meet and exceed its mission responsibilities to Air Force Space Command. I would also like to recognize Brigadier General Mike Edwards of the 140th Wing at Buckley Air Force Base and Major General Mason Whitney, the Colorado Adjutant General, for their superlative support of the 137th Space Warning Squadron.

In 2003 the squadron was rated "Excellent" by USAF Space Command's Operational Readiness Inspection Team for exceptional performance and outstanding leadership. In addition, the unit has received ratings of Excellent to Outstanding at countless inspections since its stand-up in 1996. The National Guard Association's Distinguished Mission Support Plaque showcases the outstanding leadership, operational ability, and professional competence of Colorado Air National Guardsmen and women at the 137th Space Warning Squadron.

I am so proud that this unit constantly goes above and beyond in its defense of Colorado

and the United States of America. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the men and women of the 137th Space Warning Squadron for their unparalleled service to our community and our Nation.

KENTUCKY VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE
MEMORIAL

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, November 10, 2005 is going to be a very special, yet bittersweet day in Kentucky. After years of hard work and planning, the Kentucky Victims of Homicide Memorial is going to be brought to fruition. As former Attorney General I distinctly remember the beginnings of this project, and I regret that I must be voting in Washington during the memorial dedication.

I personally want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the KY Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the Kentuckians' Voice for Crime Victims (KVCV), Resthaven Memorial Park, Muldoon Memorials, and Dignity Memorial for their enormous efforts in seeing that this memorial became a reality.

This memorial will serve as a remembrance of all victims, a place of comfort for those who have lost loved ones and an ongoing tribute to the fight against crime. We must maintain hope in our struggle against violence. We must continue to raise public awareness. And we must always honor the tragic deaths of innocent homicide victims.

The Kentucky Victims of Homicide Memorial will send a powerful message to the citizens of Kentucky. It is the largest memorial and only memorial of its kind in all of the United States. It will serve as a place of inspiration, a place of hope and a place of peace. I thank those who made this memorial a reality, and I hope it will provide a small sense of comfort to those who have been affected by violent crimes.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR.
CALVIN E. OWENS, SR.

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and honor Reverend Dr. Calvin E. Owens, Sr. as he marks his 29th Pastoral Anniversary. But 29 years is only one milestone in a life dedicated to the community, to others, and to God.

After 38 years as a preacher and a lifetime as a teacher, Reverend Dr. Calvin Owens has inspired and lifted so many to recognize the potential that God has invested in each one of us.

Reverend Owens's career has seen him travel through so many institutions, and like the Good Samaritan, leave his mark every step of the way.

His pastoral journey began at Unity of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon and, in 1968 after being ordained as a minister of the Gospel, he went to First Corinthian Baptist

Church. It was there he served for six years as Director of Youth Development before moving on to the New Community Baptist Church of New York City as Pastor.

He served there honorably before being called to serve the Lord as Pastor of the Community Protestant Church in 1976, the place he still calls home.

But he has inspired and educated not only from the pulpit, but out in the community spreading the word of forgiveness, mercy, love and tolerance as part of the New York City Police Department's Police Clergy Liaison Committee; as the Second Vice President of the Riverbay Board of Directors of Co-op City; Treasurer of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York; and for eight years now as a member of Community Board #10. He is always serving his flock.

The good works of Reverend Dr. Owens have not gone unnoticed. A certificate of Award for Faithful Service from the New York Baptist Educational Center; the New York Baptist Educational Center Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service and Contributions to the Department of Pastoral Care; the Bronx Ministers Evening Conference Scholarship Award; the Harlem Hospital Center Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service and Contributions to the Department of Pastoral Care; as well as numerous other awards for Christian leadership and service.

But the awards most important to highlight are the one's provided by God—his three sons and three daughters. They are a living tribute to you, Reverend.

Therefore, on behalf of United States House of Representatives, I am honored to acknowledge and honor the life and contributions of Reverend Dr. Calvin E. Owens, Sr. as he celebrates his 29th Pastoral Anniversary.

H.R. 4179: JAPANESE BAN ON
AMERICAN BEEF

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 4179. This legislation would impose trade sanctions on Japan if the ban on American beef is not lifted by a reasonable date. For decades, Japan has been a friend and reliable trading partner with the United States, and I anticipate that relationship will prosper. However, in spite of our best efforts, our fine relationship has been strained by Japan's continued ban on imports of U.S. beef.

There is reason to be optimistic that this legislation will not be enacted if Japan takes reasonable action. Japan's Food Safety Commission gave a favorable report on Monday, October 31, 2005, and will continue to review the ban for a mandatory one-month comment period. After the one-month waiting period, the Japanese government may drop the ban and resume beef imports. However, should the Japanese not take favorable action, the trade sanctions would go into effect on December 15, 2005.

The December 15 date is not arbitrary. In fact, I believe it is a well-timed and necessary mechanism to encourage the ban to be lifted. The U.S. beef industry and the federal government have not only assured the Japanese

government of our stringent safety standards, but have also made every effort to exceed the requirements set forth by Japan's Food Safety Commission.

American beef continues to be the safest and the highest quality beef in the world. The American beef producers deserve the full benefit of our bilateral trade agreement. This legislation reserves our right to respond forcefully should Japan prolong this shortsighted ban. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN
AMBASSADOR TAE-SIK LEE

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, as cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I would like to take the opportunity to formally welcome the Honorable Tae-Sik Lee as ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States and to congratulate him on his appointment.

Ambassador Lee's diplomatic credentials and legacy are entrenched in a life-long devotion to promoting, enlarging and broadening South Korea's stature and prominence at home and around the globe. He most recently served as vice foreign minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, MOFAT. His other notable diplomatic assignments include ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, ambassador to Israel and deputy executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, KEDO.

It is clear that Ambassador Lee brings tremendous depth of experience and expertise to Washington. I was pleased to learn that, upon his arrival on Friday, October 14, he stated, according to the South Korean Embassy, that he "looks forward to working together to strengthen the U.S.-Korea alliance and improving Korean-American relations."

It is important to note that Ambassador Lee has the distinct honor of representing one of America's closest allies. For over 50 years, the United States and South Korea have enjoyed a broad and comprehensive alliance, a partnership dedicated to peace and stability, economic growth and prosperity through free enterprise, and democracy with respect for human rights and the rule of law.

South Korea has undergone a fundamental transformation within the past 50 years, having emerged from a worn-torn and impoverished nation into a full and mature democracy that has generated the world's 11th largest economy. South Korea now ranks as the seventh largest trading partner of the United States with over \$72 billion in trade volume annually and is also the fifth largest market for U.S. agricultural products. In this regard, South Korea would make an excellent candidate for a Free Trade Agreement, FTA with the United States.

South Korea remains an indispensable security partner to the United States, having stood alongside our troops in all four major conflicts that we have faced since the Korean War. Most recently, in the U.S.-led war on terror, South Korea has deployed more than

3,270 troops to Iraq—the third largest contingent after the United States and Great Britain—and supported continuing operations in Afghanistan.

South Korea has also remained a key partner in the six-party talks focusing on the question of preventing nuclear proliferation in north-east Asia, and its diplomatic efforts were indispensable in achieving the joint statement that resulted from the recent fourth round negotiations. I hope that for all the challenges that lie ahead in future negotiations of the talks, we will continue to work together to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and promote peace and stability in the region.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to welcome Ambassador Tae-Sik Lee to the United States and express my personal appreciation to the government and people of South Korea. According to unofficial estimates by the South Korean Embassy, our country is now home to over 2 million Korean-Americans, with more than 444,000 who live in New York. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to South Korea by extending their hands in friendship to its ambassador, Tae-Sik Lee.

—
PRAISING THE UPCOMING ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION, APEC, SUMMIT, BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA
 —

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the administration's efforts to maintain a robust trade agenda that seeks to boost intellectual property protection at the upcoming meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, forum in Busan, South Korea. No regional institution is more important to promoting U.S. interests on anti-counterfeiting and piracy in Asia than APEC.

The 21 member states of APEC will consider a range of pressing issues that include supporting the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round, trade facilitation, and preventing the spread of avian influenza.

APEC partners account for two-thirds of all U.S. trade and are playing an important role in the war on terror. In 2004, APEC helped put the Doha Round of the WTO's negotiations back on track, and it continues to help control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and combat regional corruption.

The APEC region is of great importance to the United States—geopolitically, militarily, diplomatically, and economically. It accounts for some 40 percent of the world's population, over half of world trade, approximately 60 percent of world GDP, and a disproportionate share of global growth in recent years.

The United States, Japan, and South Korea are joining forces to promote the APEC Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative to fight fraud and protect consumers. Under this initiative, APEC will develop guidelines for the inspection, seizure and destruction of goods used in trading counterfeit and pirated goods. The initiative also provides cross-border enforcement mechanisms for APEC members.

E-commerce is another area where the U.S. is demonstrating leadership in protecting intel-

lectual property and data privacy. The U.S. continues to support APEC efforts to put in place effective legal regimes to ensure appropriate enforcement of e-commerce while protecting data collected during online transactions. By working in APEC, the U.S. can maximize its ability to engage countries lacking proper intellectual property rights protection.

Recognizing the increasing importance of the Asiatic region to our national interests, I strongly support the effort to keep APEC energized and at the center of American diplomacy in East Asia.

—
CELEBRATE THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 —

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on November 6th of this year. I wish to congratulate its Pastor, Reverend C.A. Feemster, its dedicated Deacons, and its faithful congregation on this joyous occasion.

Built in 1880, the first Mount Zion Baptist Church building was located on Piedmont Avenue and was led by their very first pastor Reverend R.L. Veal. The church was relocated to King Street in 1916, where it stood proudly until November 3, 1974, when then Pastor Norris moved his congregation into their current building.

Since that day, the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church has been blessed with such wonderful rewards as its first full time, and current, pastor Reverend C.A. Feemster, an informative church newsletter, and an active missionary program.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the 125 years of faithful service to God, the community, and its congregation members, I wish to congratulate the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church on this truly blessed occasion, and I look forward to their continued service to the community.

—
TRIBUTE TO HARLEY KNOX
 —

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a man who will long be remembered for his innumerable contributions and the tremendous leadership he displayed in the Inland Empire region of Southern California. Harley Knox was an entrepreneur, farmer, developer, and all-around community leader. Personally, he was a loyal and dear friend. Last week, Harley lost a five-month battle with bone cancer and our region collectively mourns his passing, while remembering his lifelong contributions to the Inland Empire.

Harley discovered his entrepreneurial spirit at the early age of twelve, when after WWII, demand from farmers and gardeners prompt-

ed a need for fertilizer. For a fee, Harley would clean chicken coups and then sell the fertilizer to large farms and gardeners. His modest, yet successful business soon became more than he could handle alone, so he employed neighborhood kids to help him out.

Later on, Harley capitalized on the increased popularity of Dichondra lawns in front of ranch-style homes and soon began harvesting his family's front yard and selling flats of Dichondra. The popularity of the grass continued, so Harley persuaded neighbors to let him buy portions of their lawns for resale. By the age of 20, he was selling Dichondra across Southern California and the family was buying land for farming the grass. A second business was born when he then began developing farming equipment to collect and process Dichondra seed.

By the 1950s, Harley was president of Knox Seed Company, Inc. and moved operations to farmland adjacent to what is now March Air Reserve Base. The company expanded into producing seed for grain crops, turf grass and sod. After eventually selling the seed business, Harley focused on developing farming tools and was president of Knox Manufacturing Co. of Moreno Valley from 1977 to 1986. The firm developed high-speed produce harvesters and held patents that soon became the industry standard.

In 1983 he founded the land development and consulting firm Harley Knox & Associates, which still develops industrial projects, assists with land-use regulation and attaining government entitlements. More recently, Harley was a partner in March Global Port, an industrial development on 400 acres on the south side of March Air Reserve Base. The project lists Philips Electronics and DHL as tenants and provided the region with a significant economic contribution in the wake of the downsizing of the military base.

In addition to his entrepreneurial efforts, Harley served as an active member of numerous community organizations, such as the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, The Valley Group, the Riverside County Building Industry Association, the Western Riverside County Council of Governments, the Riverside Community College Foundation, and the Riverside Community Hospital Foundation. Following an appointment by former Gov. Pete Wilson, Harley served as commissioner of the California Boating and Waterways Commission.

The Inland Empire is a better place to live today because of Harley's extraordinary contributions and his selfless dedication to his community. On behalf of the Inland Empire I want to convey our appreciation for all of Harley's efforts and express our heartfelt condolences to the Knox family, including his wife Donna, daughter Victoria and sons Bryan and Aaron, as well as his four grandchildren.

—
THE ARRIVAL OF VIRGINIA PARKER ETHERIDGE
 —

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a joyful heart to announce the birth of my second grandchild and very first granddaughter. On November 2, my wife Faye and

I welcomed into this world Virginia Parker Etheridge, the new daughter of our son Brian Etheridge and his wife Meredith. Virginia arrived at 8:40 p.m. in Raleigh, NC. She weighed 6 pounds and 15 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Faye and I are truly blessed today by the arrival of Virginia Parker Etheridge. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. I hope that Virginia will live in a world that is even better than the one we live in today. I hope that she will have access to the best education and technology in the world, that she will breathe fresh air and drink clean water, that her streets will be safe, and that her generation will not be burdened by the debt of the previous generation.

A new child in the family is a gift from God. The Etheridge family and I look forward to spending time with our new bundle of joy and introducing her to all of our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WOLVERINE MARCHING BAND

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of LaVergne High School's Wolverine Marching Band.

In September, the band marched in the LaVergne Old Timers' Day Parade. I was also a participant in the parade, and I was impressed by the talent and precision of the young musicians. Their many hours of practice had culminated in a flawless performance.

It is not just the students and teachers who make the Wolverine Marching Band great. The parents of these students also play a significant role. In addition to providing financial support, the parents often pitch in to transport band equipment to competitions and football games.

This season, the band has been awarded numerous accolades, including First Place Band Overall and First Place Percussion Overall at the Phoenix Classic Invitational. Other honors include two Color Guard, Band, and Percussion Superior Ratings and two First Place Field Commanders awards.

Residents of LaVergne, Tennessee, can be proud of their Wolverine Marching Band. I applaud the students, parents and teachers for their hard work and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SHIRLEY MCINTYRE OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and constituent from the 9th Congressional District of Massachusetts, Mrs. Shirley McIntyre, who passed away on Friday September 23, 2005. Born Shirley Powers,

she was formerly a South Boston resident before moving to the neighboring town of Dorchester. In 1956, Shirley married George McIntyre, her beloved husband of 49 years and they had five beautiful children: Darlene, Daniel, Shirley, Vanessa, and the late William.

Shirley was a devoted mother and grandmother who nurtured and guided her family as well as many of the children in her neighborhood and local community. She was a dedicated wife who spent her time with her children and beloved husband George, a retired Local 7 Iron worker who loved Shirley with all his heart.

Mr. Speaker, Shirley McIntyre will be fondly remembered not only by her family, which includes eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews; but also by the many friends who were touched by her kindness and unconditional love.

On a personal note, throughout my tenure in public service both as a member of the Massachusetts State House and in the United States Congress, I have had the unique opportunity and pleasure to see first hand Shirley's commitment to her family and community. Shirley's willingness to be involved with her neighborhood and local political process is a testament to her endless devotion to family and friends.

Today, I ask the Membership of the House of Representatives to join with me in offering our deepest condolences to the McIntyre family for their loss. We will all miss Shirley as a shining example to her family and community.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SGT. ARTHUR A. MORA, JR.

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deepest sympathy that I pay a special tribute to my constituent Sgt. Arthur A. Mora, Jr., who was killed in Balad, Iraq on October 19 when his vehicle was hit by enemy fire. His passing at the age of 23, marks the end of a young and promising life which had already exemplified duty, honor and heroism.

Arthur will be remembered as the quiet student at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera who missed having his photo taken for the senior yearbook. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 27, 2000. Upon completion of basic training, Arthur was assigned to the 1st Battalion, the 3rd Air Defense Artillery, and the 3rd Infantry Division followed by Bravo Battery 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Camp Pelham, Korea. He returned to the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In July 2005, Sgt. Mora was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sgt. Mora's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Ribbon, the Army Service Medal, and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Family members say they draw comfort in knowing that Arthur was doing what he wanted. He was a young man who loved the military and would have most likely made a career in the Army.

Arthur is survived by his wife Veronica, daughters Olivia, Celina and a newborn son, Christopher, whom he had never seen. He is also survived by his mother Sylvia Mora of Montebello, sisters Michelle, Celia, and his brother Paul.

His family and friends will miss this caring young man greatly, and to them I extend my sincerest heartfelt sympathy and pray that they will receive God's comforting graces in their time of sorrow.

DEMOCRATIZATION IN INDONESIA: A NEW ERA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the last several years, Indonesia has entered a new era of democracy. At the national level, the Indonesian people voted freely in an open and fair 2004 Presidential election for the first time in that country's history. The election campaign was vigorous, with public debates and ample discussion of issues among the main candidates. There was no significant violence or attempts at voter intimidation. International election observers as well as domestic monitors reported that the election in Indonesia was conducted fairly. Voter turnout in the general election was very high, about 80 percent.

More recently, another major step forward in democracy is taking place in Indonesia. Regional and local elections have recently been held throughout this vast country of more than 17,000 islands. As before, in last year's presidential election, some observers predicted that local elections would lead to communal conflict. But they were wrong. Nationwide local elections conducted in June went off smoothly although there were tensions among ethnic and religious groups in a few districts. But the security forces maintained order and enforced fair elections. I am informed that of 166 regional districts, 116 succeeded in conducting orderly local elections. Although sporadic, minimal violence did occur in about 16 districts, it was brief and quickly controlled by the police. As in the presidential election last year, according to reports I have seen, voter participation in the local elections was very high, nearly 74 percent.

Indonesian officials recognized openly that there are some weaknesses to be fixed. One is the difficulty in quickly counting the votes in some districts. This case could and did give rise to allegations made by losing candidates, charging that the election was unfair and manipulated. The government intends to work with district officials to improve election procedures, especially voter tallies.

In West Papua there appears to have been no violence or conflicts during the local elections. Reports indicated that elections were successfully held in 14 districts in West Papua. People came out to vote for their candidates to regional councils and exercised their right to choose the local leaders they prefer. Regarding elections for a regional governor, I am told the West Papuans are waiting for the establishment of the People's Council of Papua before conducting the election. This council will be the highest representative body

of West Papua and will have authority to select the candidates for governor of Papua. But, even while awaiting the establishment of the council, the process to nominate some candidates to be governor of Papua is proceeding. I am informed that the Special Commission of the District Parliament of Papua is developing preparations for elections for regional governor. When those preparations are completed, the Commission will send a list of candidates to the People's Council of Papua to be selected to participate in the election.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the government and people of Indonesia for this new and highly important step in instituting democracy in this great country. Regardless of the difficulties encountered in conducting local elections throughout this vast nation, the Administration of President Yudhoyono and the regional authorities demonstrated determination to follow the path to democracy. Just as important, the Indonesian people responded by coming out to the polls in huge numbers. Indonesia deserves high praise for its remarkable accomplishments in breaking with a legacy of dictatorship, and ethnic and religious strife, to successfully implement democratic principles.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for two votes on November 1, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 557: H.R. 3548—Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act—I would have voted “yes.”

Rollcall No. 558: H.R. 3989—Albert Harold Quie Post Office Designation Act—I would have voted “yes.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence during yesterday's recorded votes. As a proud grandfather, it is with exceeding pride that I announce the birth yesterday of my first granddaughter to my son Brian and my daughter-in-law Meredith. My wife, Faye, and I joyfully welcome this new baby girl who joins her cousin William Otto, who was born to our daughter Catherine and our son-in-law Tim Otto in January. This is a special time for the Etheridge family, and we are truly blessed.

Had I been present in the Chamber yesterday, I would have voted “No” on rollcall 559 and “Yes” on rollcalls 560 and 561. Rollcall 560 was passage of H.R. 4061, Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Improvement Act, a bipartisan and noncontroversial measure. Likewise, rollcall 561 was passage of H.R. 1691, the John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation Act, a routine matter.

However, rollcall 559 was passage of H.R. 1606, the so-called Online Freedom of Speech Act. This substantive legislation would undo Federal regulation of soft money for political communication on the Internet. Consideration of such substantive legislation on the Suspension Calendar, which affords no opportunity for amendment and severely restricts debate, is an improper and ill-advised method to craft sound public policy. I would have voted “No” on rollcall 559 in favor of its consideration under regular order.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF
RAMONA, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ramona, KS, for successful community revitalization efforts.

Pat Wick and Jessica Gilbert have always considered this town of 100 people to be home. It is where their parents were born and raised. As children, these sisters would accompany their parents on annual visits from their home in California to help their grandparents with summer harvest. As adults, Pat worked as a clinical psychologist and Jessica was a philanthropic organization consultant.

When they returned to Ramona in 1989 for a family reunion, the sisters felt a strong pull to come home. They reestablished their roots building by building. In 1990, Pat purchased and the sisters renovated a home they now call The Ramona House, in honor of their ancestors. Pat and Jessica purchased a second house in 1995 and remade it into Cousin's Corner bed and breakfast. The sisters purchased a third home that is now a lodge called Jake's Place. All of this was accomplished through frequent visits to Ramona, even while Pat and Jessica continued their careers in California.

By the year 2000, Pat and Jessica decided to take the final step and moved home. The sisters now live in the Ramona House and operate Jake's Place and Cousin's Corner. More recently, they purchased the old bank building and turned it into The Dirt Gamblers Museum, which is home to photographs and other items honoring Ramona's pioneer history. The sisters have also contributed to the revitalization of Ramona through extensive community involvement. They have helped organize several civic and community events, including a spring tea party, a citywide Memorial Day service, a Main Street Fourth of July parade and an outdoor Nativity in the city park complete with live animals and singing angels. In an effort to celebrate Halloween and promote regional tourism, Pat and Jessica are currently helping promote a Scarecrow parade in Ramona and several other area communities. If all of that isn't enough, Pat is the town's mayor and Jessica is the city clerk.

At age 93, Tony Meyer is Ramona's oldest citizen. He believes Pat and Jessica are doing great things for the community. “The sisters have awakened this town again,” Meyer said. Warren Fike, a lifetime resident, also notices a positive change. “Having the sisters come in has helped keep Ramona alive,” Fike said. “The steps they've taken to improve the town

have motivated more people here to help, too.”

The sisters believe Ramona's revitalization is beginning to take hold. “We're romantics, and we have a passion for this place,” Jessica said. “We want people to be proud they're connected to the town and want them to invest in it again.” “It's a special place,” Pat noted. “It's Mayberry R.F.D. come to life.”

For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Ramona are an example of how hard work, vision and community support can create just such an opportunity. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Ramona is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL HILLEGONDS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul Hillegonds, an individual who has served the residents of Michigan through the years with great distinction. Throughout his career in public service, Paul tirelessly worked for the betterment of our great State and continues to impact countless individuals through his professional and community affiliations.

Paul served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1979 to 1996, and was speaker his final two years in elected office. In 1997, Paul embarked on a new path of service, taking the reins as president of Detroit Renaissance, a non-profit, civic organization comprising Southeast Michigan's business leaders.

Paul has received numerous honors throughout his distinguished career, and I am pleased to call him a friend. Paul and I go back a long way—all the way back, in fact, to when he was Administrative Assistant for U.S. Representative Ruppe and I was a staffer for Representative Dave Stockman.

Our friendship has only strengthened over time. His wife and kids are good family friends and we have enjoyed each other both in and out of public service. Paul has always stood for the right things and he has displayed the utmost integrity. Unfortunately term limits cost us his leadership as speaker of the Michigan House, but his leadership for the folks of Michigan continues.

I look forward to many more years of Paul's friendship. We are all better off for Paul's service to the State of Michigan, and I wish him continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on November 1 and 2, 2005, I was absent for several votes for

personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Vote No., description, vote: 557, Heinz Ahlmeyer, Jr. Post Office Building, "yes"; 558, Albert Harold Quie Post Office Building, "yes"; 559, Online Freedom of Speech Act, "no"; 560, VA Information Technology, "yes"; and 561, John Bradley Outpatient Clinic, "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) on their 30th anniversary. Throughout their 30 years, this group of dedicated students has been the primary advocates for fellow undergraduates in the State of Missouri. Known as the student voice in the Missouri State government, the organization has been essential to craft and advance legislation that has benefited higher education in Missouri. In addition, ASUM has been the training ground for students interested in entering public service, the political arena, and is responsible for producing some of today's top government employees serving the State of Missouri.

ASUM encourages students to become educated about the political process, and by doing so increases awareness, concern, and participation of young adults in democracy. ASUM's political action began on the campus of University of Missouri-Columbia in 1975. After successful participation by the students at the campus in Columbia, the student leaders expanded the organization to the other campuses within the University of Missouri System: Kansas City, St. Louis, and Rolla, where participation among the students exceeded expectations.

Serving as the student voice in the federal government, state government, and on the various campuses of the University of Missouri, ASUM is responsible for the creating a student representative position on the University of Missouri Board of Curators. The student representative affords the opportunity for the Board of Curators to truly hear and value the students' perspective on issues affecting the University System. Keeping the student views in the forefront of Universities' agenda, the Board of Curators passed a policy allowing the ASUM student representative to attend closed board meetings. The over-arching impact of the policy addition was to remind the Board of Curators that every institutional change had to be in the best interest of the students.

As the primary advocate of students in Missouri, the ASUM established through legislation the Bright Flight Scholarship, the most important source of financial aid for scholars from the State of Missouri. The annual \$2,000 scholarship was created to encourage top ranked high school seniors to attend approved Missouri postsecondary schools. The program is geared to the top 3 percent of all Missouri high school students who have a minimum ACT score of 30 or a minimum SAT score of 780 math and 780 verbal. By requiring the student to maintain satisfactory academic

progress and full time employment, this scholarship program helps the student to learn how to effectively manage their time and balance priorities. In addition to the Bright Flight Scholarship Program, the ASUM created Missouri State law to exempt sales taxes on textbooks, which has saved students in Missouri \$6 million dollars every year since its enactment in 1999. Finally, the student political activists created a loan forgiveness program for teachers, medical doctors, and veterinarians who serve in high need areas of Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude for the dedication of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri and their relentless efforts in extending their voices to represent all of the students of Missouri. It is essential for the members of the ASUM and other student organizations to be celebrated for their good works, for the students of today are truly our leaders of tomorrow.

HONORING SPC DERENCE JEFFREY W. JACK AND SSG WILGENE T. LIETO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the two soldiers from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands who became casualties of Operation Iraqi Freedom on October 31, 2005 in Iraq. Specialist Derence Jeffrey W. Jack and Staff Sergeant Wilgene T. Lieto made the ultimate sacrifice in support of the global war on terror, and in doing so, helped to preserve our freedom. SSG Lieto served in Iraq as a Sergeant—the U.S. Army awarded him a posthumous promotion to Staff Sergeant. These soldiers left their homes and their families to answer the call of duty as members of the E Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army Reserve. On behalf of our communities in the Northern Marianas and Guam, I join with our local leaders in offering our sincerest condolences to the family of Derence Jeffrey W. Jack, especially his wife Melissa Jack and their daughter, and to the family of Wilgene T. Lieto, especially his wife Tiara Lieto and their son and daughter. The service and sacrifice of these soldiers will always be remembered and I join our Pacific island community in honoring the patriotism of these Army reservists. Derence Jeffrey W. Jack, from Gualo Rai, Saipan, was a manager at the Bank of Guam branch in Saipan. Wilgene T. Lieto, from Tanapag, Saipan, was a police officer. SPC Jack and SSG Lieto were part of the "Go For Broke" Battalion, serving with fellow soldiers from Guam, the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and Hawaii. Although their loss brings great sadness to the people of the Northern Marianas and Guam, we take comfort in knowing that these soldiers served with honor. May God bless them and their families.

DEMOCRATS' CLIMATE PUSH MAY SQUEEZE GOP MODERATES ON SCIENCE PANEL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this article from InsideEPA to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A novel effort by 150 House Democrats to require that the White House turn over documents showing what it knows about climate change effects on U.S. coastal regions may force key Republican moderates to choose party loyalty over their environmental records, or risk leaving themselves open to attacks from conservative opponents in upcoming primaries, sources say.

Rep. DENNIS KUCINICH (D-OH) has initiated a rare House procedure with the backing of 150 of his Democratic colleagues that seeks information from the executive branch on how climate change has affected U.S. coastal regions. If H.R. 515, a "resolution of inquiry," (ROI) passes with the support of key GOP moderates on the House Science Committee and the full House, it would require the president within 14 days to turn over documents related to climate change impacts on coastal areas. Relevant documents are available on InsideEPA.com.

KUCINICH's resolution does not specifically mention hurricanes, but congressional staffers familiar with the effort say Congress is growing more concerned that climate change may have increased hurricane severity in light of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. "This has been a brutal hurricane season and many think climate change will be the defining problem of our generation. We want to know what [President Bush] knew," according to one staffer. The effort comes as Republican environment committee senators are quashing suggestions that increased sea surface temperatures could be linked to the recent spike in hurricane activity.

Observers say the ROI will present House Science Committee Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY), Rep. VERNON EHLERS (R-MI) and Rep. WAYNE GILCREST (R-MD) with a critical choice between siding with their party in deflecting attention from the president's climate policies and their environmental records, which have won them praise and endorsements from environmental groups. Their decisions on the matter may prove crucial during their 2006 primaries, where at least one is expected to face a tough fight against a more conservative GOP candidate.

Although the ROI measure has no Republican co-sponsors, BOEHLERT has a track record of backing efforts to address climate change that is adding to Democrats' optimism that the measure may make it to the House floor for a vote, sources say. "Boehlert's support [for previous efforts to allow more open scientific debate on climate change] makes us hopeful," according to one source.

For instance, BOEHLERT last summer sharply criticized efforts by House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman JOE BARTON (R-TX) to investigate the findings and funding sources of three prominent climate scientists. In a July 14 letter, BOEHLERT characterized BARTON's requests as "pernicious" and

"chilling." BOEHLERT said, "The only conceivable explanation for the investigation is to attempt to intimidate a prominent scientist and to have Congress put its thumbs on the scales of a scientific debate."

But observers say the ROI may pose a thorny problem for the representative because he has recently squared off against competitive primary opponents and is anticipating another close race against a conservative in 2006. In seeking a thirteenth term, Boehlert faces conservative GOP primary challenger Bradford Jones, a former Seneca, NY, mayor who has already launched an election bid. Boehlert narrowly won a primary challenge against conservative Republican David Walruth in 2002 and faced him again in the 2004 primary. Walruth was backed by a number of conservative organizations, including the anti-tax group Club for Growth.

A spokesman for BOEHLERT did not return calls seeking comment.

And while many environmentalists praise Gilchrest's voting record, they are blasting his recent last-minute change of position on House refinery legislation. The legislation, supporters said, would speed production of refined oil and gasoline by aiding the country's oil refineries in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The Republican leadership cajoled members to support the measure in the face of near-unanimous Democratic opposition. GILCREST's decision to switch his vote and side with most of his GOP colleagues in the end proved crucial as the bill passed 212-210.

Ehlers recently broke party ranks by opposing a House-passed overhaul of the 1973 Endangered Species Act. The overhaul would give property owners new rights and reduce the Federal role in protecting habitats. It passed late last month by a vote of 229 to 193, although Ehlers joined Michigan's Democratic delegation in voting against the measure.

Even if the ROI fails to gather GOP support, the tool may still allow House Democrats to gather executive branch information on climate change, according to congressional researchers.

A 2003 Congressional Research Service report on the procedure finds that ROIs are "often much more effective in obtaining information from the executive branch than one would expect from committee and floor action. Administrations have often released a substantial amount of information, leading the committee of jurisdiction to conclude that the dispute is moot and it is therefore appropriate to report the resolution adversely and table it on the floor." Relevant documents are available on InsideEPA.com.

CONGRATULATING THE JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the John Boyle O'Reilly Club in Springfield, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary. Since it was founded in 1880, the John Boyle O'Reilly

Club has been the center of Irish culture in western Massachusetts. From music, language, dancing to sport, the Boyle has promoted and preserved the unique culture of Ireland for generations.

On Saturday, November 5, 2005, two hundred members of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club will hold a banquet to celebrate this historic milestone. The Irish Ambassador to the United States of America will attend the ceremony to pay tribute to the enormous contribution the club has made to the local community. It will be a heartfelt and fitting celebration of culture, tradition and family.

The Irish poet W. B. Yeats once wrote: "Think where man's glory most begins and ends and say my glory was I had such friends." That sentiment helps describe what the JBO means to many of its members. More than just a social club, the Boyle has become a familiar setting for every occasion on life's journey. For many families in the Pioneer Valley, it is a special place that has produced fond memories and lasting friendships.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to an important group of individuals associated with the John Boyle O'Reilly Club. President Mary Quinn, Vice-President Patrick Burns, Treasurer Joseph Walsh and Secretary Patricia Devine deserve particular recognition for their leadership during this anniversary year.

The Board of Directors, which includes Patrick Reilly, Mary Kate O'Connor, Timothy Hurley, Matthew Dooney, Eric Levine and Stephen Lonergan should also be acknowledged for their dedication and commitment.

And finally, I want to congratulate the members of the club who are directly responsible for its success and longevity. On their behalf, I would like to submit this history of the club, written by member Dan Shea, into the permanent RECORD of the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in recognizing the John Boyle O'Reilly Club on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary. Let us hope this local landmark continues to celebrate the culture of Ireland for at least another century.

THE JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY CLUB, 1880-2005, 125 YEARS OF CULTURE, TRADITION, AND FAMILY

This year the John Boyle O'Reilly Club celebrates its 125th Anniversary. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club is Western Massachusetts' oldest continuous Irish-American organization. The Club was originally organized in 1880. It initially went by other names but subsequently took the name of the famous Irishman, John Boyle O'Reilly, shortly after his death in 1890. During this time period, various Irish organizations drilled and trained for when the time came to return to Ireland and fight for Irish freedom. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club was one of the hosts when Irish President Eamon Devalara came to the United States in 1921 to seek funds for the newly proclaimed Irish Republic. The call to return to Ireland never came but the organization stayed and promoted the ideals of Irish freedom and Irish culture.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club has been housed in several locations through out the years. In the early 1900s the Club would have its meetings above Linehan's Saloon on Worthington Street. In 1933, the Club incorporated and received its corporate charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its liquor license from the city of Springfield. At that time the club was lo-

cated at the old Poli building on Worthington Street. The club moved to Hampden Street in 1943. On Sundays, local Irish musicians would play live music on WBZA in the old Hotel Charles and then walk over to Hampden Street and play music for the rest of the day. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club moved the second floor of 1653 Main Street in 1955.

In 1970, the John Boyle O'Reilly Club purchased the present building at 33 Progress Avenue in Springfield. The building was a mere shell of a structure when purchased. Many members volunteered labor and material to finish construction and to complete the interior. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club opened its doors on Progress Avenue in March of 1972. There have been several renovations over the years to make the surroundings more enjoyable for the members and guests of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club.

Throughout the years, the John Boyle O'Reilly Club has held many dances, concerts, Celi, music lesson, Irish language lessons, bagpipe lessons, sessions, and benefits for many families who fell on hard times due to injury, illness or an unexpected death.

The John Boyle O'Reilly Club continues its mission of being a home for Irish-American culture, whether it is Irish step dancing, music, the live broadcast of the Gaelic Football and Hurling Games from Ireland, or meeting with friends and family. It may be known as "the Boyle," "the JBO" or simply "the Club," but it still is a place for Irish-Americans of all ages to come and enjoy one of the finest Irish Clubs in New England. The John Boyle O'Reilly Club continues to look forward to being the home of Irish American culture and celebrations in the coming years. We look forward to the coming year and invite all of our members and friends to come and celebrate the 125 years of culture, tradition, and family with the John Boyle O'Reilly Club.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY SHIFTS
BLAME ON TERRORISM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear that the Legislative Assembly in Punjab recently had a discussion on terrorism there. Terrorism is an important issue which all leaders of the world must address. However, the debate turned into partisan politics of the type we're too familiar with here—each side blaming the other for spurring the terrorism in Punjab, while they ignored the real cause of the problem—the Indian government.

India has imposed a reign of terror in Punjab, Khalistan for many years, starting with a memo sent to police by their first Home Minister, Mr. Patel, describing Sikhs as "a criminal class." This month marks the anniversary of one particularly brutal chapter in that reign of terror—the Delhi massacres of November 1984, in which 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. The government locked Sikh police officers in their barracks to keep them from getting involved and the government's own radio and TV called for more Sikh blood.

The newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the governor of Punjab, the late Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir. The U.S. State Department reported that the government paid more than 41,000

cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. One even got a bounty for killing a three-year-old boy.

Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra compiled and published a report showing that India had a policy of picking up young Sikh men, torturing and killing them, declaring their bodies unidentified, and then secretly cremating them. Khalra identified over 25,000 such cases at three cremation grounds in Punjab. Others who have followed up on Khalra's work found that the number is at least 50,000. For his work, Mr. Khalra was arrested by the Punjab police and killed while in police custody. The only witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly arrested and harassed by the police.

Surdev Singh Kaunke was the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh religious leader. He was murdered by a police official named Swaran Singh Ghotna. No one has ever been punished for this atrocity. The driver for another religious leader, Baba Charan Singh, had his legs tied to two jeeps, which then drove off in different directions, tearing the man in half.

Mr. Speaker, why are such actions tolerated, especially by a government that calls itself democratic? America must take a stand against such tyranny.

The time has come to stop all our trade with India and all our aid to that country until such time as basic human rights are fully protected. And we must put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Punjab, Khalistan, and all the other peoples and nations seeking freedom, such as predominantly Muslim Kashmir and predominantly Christian Nagaland. This is the most effective way to end terrorism in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release into the RECORD now for the information of my colleagues.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY DEBATES TERRORISM
AMARINDER, BADAL SHOULD DISCUSS FREEDOM
FOR SIKH NATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 2, 2005—The Punjab Legislative Assembly recently had a session to debate terrorism. Both the Congress Party and the Akali Dal blamed each other for encouraging Sikh youth to carry out the violence.

Amarinder Singh and Parkash Singh Badal are trying to change the history of Punjab. They are fully aware that Punjab, Khalistan has been engaged in a long struggle for independence after the Delhi massacres of November 1984. On April 29, 1986, Sarbat Khalsa passed a resolution for the independence of Khalistan and formed the Panthic Committee. On October 7, 1987, the Panthic Committee declared the independence of Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan was formed at that time to lead the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan.

These leaders are betraying the Sikh Nation. They need to be exposed and removed from their leadership roles. As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Recently, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh apologized for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, firmly establishing India's guilt in this atrocity against the Sikh Nation.

The Indian government controls the Sikh leadership. Both Badal's Akali Dal, which claims to be the protector of Sikh interests,

and Amarinder Singh's Congress Party, which is the party that carried out the Golden Temple attack, are under Indian government control.

New Sikh leadership is emerging in Dal Khalsa and other organizations. They hoisted the Khalistani flag in front of the Golden Temple on Republic Day in January and again on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attacks. They marched and made speeches for Khalistan. For this, they were charged by the Indian government and 35 were arrested.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Last year, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill annulling all water agreements with the Indian government, preventing the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. Punjab needs its river water for its crops. In the bill, the Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Surdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

"It is time to replace Amarinder Singh and Badal with new leadership that is committed to the interests of the Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and lift the standard of living for the people of Punjab," he said. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH DEMANDS
FULL ACCOUNTING FOR SECRET
CREMATIONS IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, Human Rights Watch wrote an excellent letter

to the National Human Rights Commission of India demanding full accounting for the secret cremations of Sikhs in India. The secret cremations were described by India's Supreme Court as "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale." The court ordered the Indian government in November 1995, two months after the "disappearance" of Jaswant Singh Khalra, to conduct a full investigation into this brutal policy. Ten years later, that investigation has never taken place. Instead, the commission has chosen to focus on the trivial issue of whether the cremations were conducted in accord with the police rules, a terrible diversion from the real issue, which is that the Indian government is carrying out this genocidal policy against the Sikh minority.

This investigation must proceed, and it must be a full-fledged inquiry into this murderous policy, India must make full restitution to the victims' families.

Mr. Speaker, I will be inserting the letter from Human Rights Watch into the RECORD at this time.

NOVEMBER 1, 2005.

Re mass secret cremations in Punjab.

Hon. DR. JUSTICE A.S. ANAND,
Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission,
Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg,
New Delhi, India.

DEAR JUSTICE ANAND: As the National Human Rights Commission prepares to issue a decision in the Punjab mass secret cremations case, we urge the Commission to order a full accounting of the systematic abuses that occurred in Punjab, determine liability after detailed investigations into the violations, and provide for compensation for surviving family members based on a detailed understanding of the scope of violations suffered by each individual.

In 1994, investigations by human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra revealed that security forces had abducted, extrajudicially executed, and secretly cremated thousands of Sikhs in Punjab from 1984 to 1994. Mr. Khalra exposed over 2,000 secret cremations in Amritsar district alone—one of 17 districts in Punjab. Subsequent investigations by human rights groups confirmed that secret cremations had occurred throughout the state, and that cremation was only one form of disposing of victims' bodies. After publicly disclosing his findings, Mr. Khalra was abducted by the Punjab police and "disappeared" in September 1995. In November 1995, the Supreme Court ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to inquire into his abduction and allegations of mass cremations.

On December 12, 1996, the Indian Supreme Court found the inquiry by the CBI into mass cremations in Punjab disclosed a "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale" and ordered the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to adjudicate these mass crimes and "determine all the issues" (Paramjit Kaur v. State of Punjab). After challenges by the Indian government, the NHRC limited its investigation to illegal cremations in Amritsar district alone. The NHRC has now received 3,500 claims of illegal cremation in Amritsar.

Instead of investigating these secret cremations as unlawful deprivations of life, the Commission has adopted the narrow issue of whether the victims' bodies were cremated according to police rules. At two hearings in October 2005, the petitioner Committee for Information and Initiative on Punjab (CIIP) challenged the Commission's decision to discard investigations, especially given the failure to identify the vast majority of victims and establish procedures, standards and

mechanisms to adjudicate these cases to capture the full scope of human rights violations.

In almost nine years, the Commission has not heard testimony in a single case, or held a single security official or agency responsible for human rights violations. Further, at hearings in recent months, the Commission has indicated its intention to dispense with investigations into the violations altogether, and only determine whether the cremations occurred according to police procedure. This is an odd decision for a human rights body.

Human Rights Watch strongly urges the Commission to commit itself to detailed investigations into the rights violations suffered by all victims of illegal cremations and their family members, including whether individual deaths were unlawful, the role of state security forces or their agents in planning or carrying out illegal killings, identifying individual perpetrators, and determining proper compensation. It is critical that those cases not addressed by the NHRC's order of November 2004 are also investigated. Until the facts are determined, "disappearances" remain an ongoing crime and the NHRC ruling does not close the case.

Such investigations are required by international human rights law. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which India ratified in 1979, provides in article 2 that a victim of a rights violation shall have an effective remedy and that the right to such a remedy be determined by a competent authority and be enforced when granted. A victim's right to an effective remedy imposes an obligation on the state to undertake investigations to identify the perpetrators of human rights violations. Indeed, the Commission's August 1997 order concluded that the Commission must lay the factual foundations of the case in order to establish liability, but for reasons that are not clear the Commission has never implemented its own order. Anything less than proper investigations will be a betrayal of victims and their families.

We note that in the nine years since the Commission took cognizance of the Punjab mass cremations matter, it has investigated and resolved numerous other complaints of human rights violations throughout India. Moreover, the Commission has pursued cases *suo motu*, without even receiving a complaint, after violations came to its attention through media reports. The NHRC has earned a well-deserved reputation for taking on powerful forces in India, which makes the Commission's decisions in the Punjab cases even more puzzling.

In this upcoming order, we also urge the Commission to clarify that the November 2004 order of compensation is interim. This order announced a total award of 2.5 lakhs rupees (around U.S. \$5,500) to 109 families in whose cases police admitted custody of next of kin, without determining individual responsibility, providing other reparatory measures, or engaging in an inquiry into the facts as directed by the Supreme Court. This grant of compensation is not only paltry, but it does not fulfill the Commission's responsibilities under international human rights law to make an individual determination.

Developing a compensation policy requires extensive investigation to clarify the extent of human rights violations, the potential beneficiaries, and the nature of injuries suffered, among other issues. The expert report submitted at the hearing on October 24, 2005 by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture (Bellevue), demonstrates that the deprivation of life occurred within a pattern of violations that included intentional abuse among multiple family members of the "dis-

appeared." The CIIP further called on the Commission to summon the authors of the report to testify. This report should compel the Commission to investigate the deprivation of the right to life of the victim, and the physical and psychological trauma inflicted upon surviving family members. In addition, our brief, submitted to the Commission in December 2003 in conjunction with Harvard Law Student Advocates for Human Rights, demonstrates that human rights bodies have considered evidence from numerous sources to adjudicate "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions, including evidence from international human rights experts. In its upcoming order, we urge the Commission to admit and fully weigh all evidence available, including the PHR/Bellevue report.

To demonstrate its intention to fulfill the mandate of the Supreme Court, the Commission must act to redress the violations of the rights to life and liberty suffered by thousands of families in Punjab. Its failure to do so is contributing to impunity, sending the message that perpetrators of mass crimes are more powerful than the Supreme Court and National Human Rights Commission. The Commission, no doubt, is aware that the prosecution of the officials who "disappeared" Jaswant Singh Khalra, the human rights defender who exposed the mass cremations in Punjab, has not concluded in nine years. The Commission should not allow the Punjab mass cremations case to also stand as an example of the triumph of impunity over the right to justice.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to a fruitful dialogue with you and other members of the Commission on this case.

Sincerely,

BRAD ADAMS,
*Executive Director, Asia Division,
Human Rights Watch.*

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. JANET WILKINSON—37 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in offering a well deserved tribute to an exemplary citizen, Mrs. Janet Wilkinson, who has dedicated 37 years of her adult life as an employee with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. I am particularly proud that Mrs. Wilkinson was born in my home town, Wilson, NC.

As if to forecast her future with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, Mrs. Wilkinson started out at a very young age working on a tenant farm where she experienced first hand the lifestyle and the many ups and downs farmers endure from day to day.

After graduating from Rock Ridge High School in 1969, Mrs. Wilkinson learned of a job opportunity at the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. She applied for the position and was hired. The story that Mrs. Wilkinson tells is all too familiar in public servant circles. She indicated that she "came in with the intentions of working and going to school part time." She added, "but the work

was so involved that I just kept on working, and I enjoyed it." And here we are 37 years later.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Wilkinson has worked under five directors of the Farm Service Agency and has taken the helm three times as interim director. In 2003, for her outstanding service and loyalty to the Farm Service Agency and the agriculture industry, she was presented with the North Carolina Distinguished Service Award. After 37 dedicated years, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Wilkinson deserves to retire with many other ovations and well wishes from those whose lives she touched in a very special way.

Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives, my congressional colleagues and the more than 660,000 constituents whom I represent. It is my wish that Mrs. Wilkinson will continue to find much challenge and reward in all of her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. Wilkinson for her service to the State of North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO AMY BURKS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Amy Burks for receiving the 2005 Newton B. Powell Award. This award is given by the Morgan County Democratic Party for dedication and leadership within the party.

Mrs. Burks is the Alabama representative to the Democratic National Committee Executive Committee and has been active in Alabama Democratic Party politics for more than 40 years. Additionally, Mrs. Burks has served as vice chair for the Alabama State Democratic Party since 1991, and is also the senior Vice President of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. She also serves on the Morgan County Executive Committee.

In addition to her work with the Democratic Party, Mrs. Burks has had 19 years of experience as a teacher, working with students at Madison Cross Roads and Hazel Green and was the assistant principal at Madison Elementary. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, where she is responsible for overseeing the institute's comprehensive education and rehabilitation system that serves children and adults who are deaf, blind, and multidisabled.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Burks has done a great deal to help strengthen and grow the Democratic Party throughout our State, our Nation, and our community. She has been a helping hand and an integral part of many of our democratic colleagues' campaigns in Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join her husband Larry, daughters Lisa and JoLynn, and the entire North Alabama community in congratulating Amy on this much deserved award and to thank her for all that she continues to do on behalf of Morgan County and the State of Alabama.